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YÜKSEK LİSANS TEZİ

**THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON YOUTHS'
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN IRAQI KURDISTAN
REGION**

THE HALABJA UNIVERSITY CASE

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ABSTRACT

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON YOUTHS' POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN IRAQI KURDISTAN REGION

THE HALABJA UNIVERSITY CASE

DANA ALI

This research tries to examine the role of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube in political participation of youths in Kurdistan region of Iraq. It seeks to explain the relation between social media and political participation, and tries to detect the relationship between political participation with different political components such as political knowledge, political discussion, and political interest. During the study, some questions are raised; these questions are examined by testing some hypotheses that deduced from the literature review. Moreover, data are collected quantitatively to test the validity of the hypotheses of the research.

In this study, quantitative method is adopted, survey approach is used in collecting data process by adopting questionnaire. And non-probability approach is used for determining the sample of the study by adopting purposive method. The sample included 250 young citizens aged between 18 and 30 in Halabja city of Iraqi Kurdistan region. The study concluded that there is a correlation between using social media such as Facebook and YouTube with conventional and nonconventional types of political participation. Moreover, the results of the study detects an relation between using social media such as Facebook and YouTube and twitter with political interest, and the study finds out a relationship between consuming both Facebook and YouTube with political discussion, and the study detected only relationship between checking Facebook with having political knowledge. In addition, the study shows a relation between both types of political participation, conventional and nonconventional, with political discussion and political interest.

Keywords: Social Media, political participation, political interest. Political discussion, political knowledge, young people, Kurdistan region of Iraq.

ÖZ

IRAK KÜRDİSTAN BÖLGESİNDE GENÇLERİN SİYASAL KATILIMINA SOSYAL MEDYANIN ROLÜ HALABAA ÜNİVERSİTESİ ÖRNEĞİ

DANA AHMAD ALI

Bu araştırma, gençlerin Irak'ın Kürdistan bölgesindeki siyasi katılımında Facebook, Twitter ve YouTube gibi sosyal medya araçlarının rolünü incelemeye çalışmaktadır. Sosyal medya ile siyasi katılım arasındaki ilişkiyi açıklamak ve siyasi katılım, siyasi bilgi, siyasi tartışma ve siyasi ilgi gibi farklı politik bileşenler arasındaki ilişkiyi saptamaya çalışmaktadır. Çalışma sırasında bazı sorular ortaya çıkmakta ve bu sorular literatür taramasından çıkarsanan bazı hipotezler test edilerek incelenmektedir. Ayrıca, araştırmanın varsayımların doğruluğunu test etmek için veriler niceliksel olarak toplanmaktadır.

Bu çalışmada niceliksel yöntem benimsenmiş, bilgi toplama yönteminde anket yaklaşımı kullanılmıştır. Olasılık dışı yaklaşım, araştırmanın örneklemini, amaçlanan yöntemi benimseyerek belirlemek için kullanılmıştır. Örneklem, Irak Kürdistan bölgesinde bulunan Halepçe kentinde ve 18-30 yaşları arasında 250 genç vatandaştan oluşmaktadır. Toplanan veriler istatistiksel olarak analiz edilmiş ve sonuçlar, araştırma hipotezlerinin güvenilirliğini göstermiştir. Çalışma, Facebook ve YouTube gibi sosyal medya ile geleneksel ve geleneksel olmayan politik katılım türleri arasında bir korelasyon olduğu sonucuna varmaktadır. Ayrıca, araştırmanın sonuçları, Facebook, YouTube ve Twitter gibi sosyal medya araçları ile siyasi ilgi arasında bir ilişki tespit etmektedir. Çalışma, Facebook ve YouTube kullanımı ile siyasi tartışma arasında bir ilişki olduğunu bulmakta, ve Facebook tüketimi ile siyasi bilgiler arasındaki ilişkiyi göstermektedir. Son olarak çalışma, ister konvensiyonel ister konvensiyonel olmayan her iki tür siyasi katılım ile siyasi tartışma ve siyasi çıkar arasında bir ilişki olduğunu göstermektedir.

Aahtar kelimeler: Sosyal medya, siyasal katılım, siyasal çıkar. siyasi tartışma, siyasal bilgi, genç insanlar, Irak Kürdistan bölgesi

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INTRODUCTION

Social media recently have resided at the potential section of public discourse and communication in the contemporary societies. In recent years human beings all around the world met a rapid growth within tools of social media, which they managed to bring about an excessive change in people's lives. Social media have become a bridge in setting up new communication between people and groups with common interests, accessing to great amount of information, being aware about daily news and events and having more opportunity to contribute and share his or her ideas (Stieglitz & Dang-Xuan, 2012). In fact, social media play a major role in different fields and have become a good tool in people's hands for advertisement, public relation, communication, and political communication (Husain et al, 2014).

In the latest times of the 20th century social media played a key role in politics. In other words, social media websites like (Twitter, Facebook and YouTube) are considered to own a unique property in influencing the political participation (Stieglitz & Dang-Xuan, 2012).

Many scholars are surprised by the magnificent role social media have in politics, and on their side they went through many investigations to mark the leverage of new media use on politics and they came up with a conclusion that Internet and specifically social networks may be able to promote political participation (Anna Horvath, 2012). Similarly, some researchers have conducted some researches and reached to the fact that employing social media websites, that is to say, the websites especially have lifted up the conventional political participation such as casting ballots (Benoit, 2016), making contributions and collecting funds for political causes (Vitak et al, 2011). However, a number of other scholars argued that the use of social networking sites does not have any link to higher rates of political participation (Caramani, 2011).

The participation of new generations is a controversial subject in which many researchers invested in with numerous studies, by additional measures, these studies implicate that new generations are not so much involved in politics (with regard to casting ballots, making donations, doing voluntary tasks, or taking part in demonstrations) than older citizens (Caramani, 2011). In spite of the rapid evolution of

the technology, considerable significance has not been attached to different political involvement by young generation through social media websites (Caramani, 2011). Do really young people use these social networking to be enlightened and essentially engage in political issues? It is a subject that deserves a close investigation since young citizens who were not directly involved in politics, currently use every means to participate and involve political issues through the Internet and their involvement is deep and increasing (Caramani, 2011).

THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Political participation has widely become an interesting subject for both of political experts and sociologists, mostly because it seems closely linked to traditional performance of self-ruling residency (Carroll, 2008). Scholars discuss the necessities of offering an equal chance to everyone during making decisions in political process (Verba et al., 1978). However, researcher determined the two fundamental forms of political participation: (The first one is conventional which includes (e.g., involvement with a political parties, been a member in a NGOs, voting, participating in election campaign and management of election, writing letters to authority etc.) and the second one is non-conventional form which includes (e.g., boycotting, protesting, taking part in demonstrations and etc.). Some researchers reported that the involvement in politics is changeable among citizens, some groups have been more influenced while others have been less affected; also they have involved in different forms especially young people.

Based on the above discussion, the problem of the research is formed by measuring the level of young people's involvement in political activities in Kurdistan region of Iraq and the role of the media in young people's involvements in politics. The researcher tries to find out which one of the social networking websites is widely used among population and which one of social media sites (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, etc.) has more influence in young political people.

This thesis seeks to examine the effect of some variables (like age, sex, education and place of residence and etc.) in using social media and the level of political participation some variables.

THE AIM OF THE STUDY

The present thesis is aimed at the examination of the connection between the employment of social media by the youth and their conventional and non-conventional political participation in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. The study is also aimed to find out the relationship between social media consumption and other political components such as political knowledge, political discussion and political interest. Moreover, the study investigates the relation between conventional and non-conventional types of participating in political process with political knowledge, political discussion and political interest.

THE RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

This study seeks to examine the validity of the following hypotheses below:

1. There is a relationship between using social media to gain political information and having political knowledge
2. Using social media to get political information and involvement in political discussion are correlated
3. Using social media to obtain political information is associated with political interests.
4. Consuming social media to receive political information is connected to conventional and non-conventional types of political participation.
5. Conventional and non-conventional types of political participation are correlated with having political knowledge, Political discussion and political interests.

CHAPTER ONE

LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1. OVERVIEW OF EMERGING SOCIAL MEDIA

The social networks have emerged during the final years of 20th century, and the first social network that was developed was known as www.sixdegree.com. Back then, the very few services were offered on the above network, but the users were capable of looking for other people and use perspicuous message service. Next, the website was enhanced by adding more services including friends list and having the ability to read user's friends list. sixdegree.com attracted few users and it came to a halt in 2000. The time since the year 1997 till 2001 is told to be the cause of the other social networking developments that were more advanced compared to the first one (Hart, 2011).

The existence of social media received permission by the Internet that enabled users with services like creating personal accounts and different types of pages on the network. Users were also allowed to communicate, exchange and express their thoughts to other people. Users also were able to exchange contents ranging from normal text to multimedia text, which allowed an everlasting range of social intercourse among members of the network (Cartmel, 2011). Based on their use, social media are divided into three categories. The first one is the prime category, which refers to social media sites that include users' personal profile and enable them with prominent services like sharing information's, creating images, and sending and receiving personal messages. The second category is about the social media sites that are chiefly about work and career. The third type refers to the social media sites that are based on micro blogging.

Now the explanation of three important and much related concepts is necessary; essentially Web 2.0, which is another concept, is the second generation of the web due to the developments that it went through. Because of its development in 2004, Web 2.0 exhibited more developed services than Web 1.0. Web 2.0 enriched the social factor through allowing and developing user-generated content. Furthermore, it developed a more interactive communication, where individuals and groups can communicate with

one another. Then comes the third concept, Web 3.0 that is the third generation of at the progress of the Internet. Its first usage dates back to 2006. The Web 3.0 apps can be used in many technological devices, such mobile phones (Chen, 2012).

The social networking sites further reinforce the three above-mentioned concepts. Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube are three very well-known social networking sites. In the following sections, we will be talking about these three sites (Creeber, 2008).

1.1.1. Three main Social Media Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

1.1.1.1. Facebook

In 2004, Mark Zuckerberg and two of his colleagues at Harvard University founded Facebook. These founders initially launched the website as very special communication medium for Harvard students (Lusted, 2011). Very soon, Facebook spread worldwide and trespassed the borders of Harvard University to other American Universities and many more. This made Facebook to turn from a simple website to a company and provided users with much more services. It also became an electrical mall in which shopping was very noticeable. The fame of Facebook very swiftly escalated and made the company deserve an imaginable price; the number of its subscribers reached 900 million people all around the world. Here two significant features on Facebook that made it very prominent which are an ease interaction and communication among people worldwide (Kirkpatrick, 2012).

As a result of this popularity, Microsoft collaborated with Facebook. This collaboration was very important as Microsoft and Facebook jointly promoted the shows and interviews of presidential candidates during US presidential elections of 2012. Not only Facebook is used by individuals but by many firms and organizations all around the world. Since Facebook has become very widespread, it is now available in more than twenty languages. Arab users have increased in number on Facebook to over 3 million users, which signals the addiction and obsession of people worldwide (Hart, 2011).

Far from the importance of Facebook, it is also used for more magnificent purpose including in criminal investigations and collide disciplinary hearings (Report on

Social Media, 2011). More than that, it is employed by many firms to know about those who apply for job vacancies. Even though these facts are covered and reported in the press, yet a published extensive investigation is not available which entirely relied on Facebook (Report on Social Media, 2011).

There are many remarkable characteristics that allow services, which distinguish it as a social networking site. For example: enabling users to create personal accounts and profile and sharing and uploading images between friends and families etc. Moreover, in 2009, Facebook added the Arabic language. Later on, Farsi language was also added during the Iran presidential elections of 2009 (Mihalkanin, 2009).

Recently, there are many controversies against Facebook. Because of its considerable influence on the learning process of students, many educators raised their fears that students have been addicted to Facebook and this addiction has caused damaging consequences to their education. Furthermore, Facebook is accused of violating laws, in other words, many claims that Facebook is stealing their personal data and intellectual concepts (Eid, 2013).

1.1.1.2. Twitter

Another remarkable social networking site is Twitter, which was founded in 2006. Twitter also falls into the category of social media websites. Sharing data on Twitter is based on micro blogging, which means people are allowed only to share and produce short messages on Twitter (Williams, cited in Johnson, 2009). There is a difference between Facebook and Twitter. That is to say Twitter messages cannot exceed 140 characters. Additionally, due to its unfettered accessibility, Twitter is popular (Fahmy, 2006). One very noticeable feature that distinguishes Twitter from other social networking sites is that it allows people to be in contact with other users through sending private messages, in the meantime, they can be aware of their followers' tweets. Besides, Twitter creates a friendly atmosphere for the users to form a network of similar-interest-users. Twitter can also be seen as an instrumental marketing tool because it enables people to put their own badge beside their accounts (Fahmy, 2006).

On Twitter, People is allowed to follow plenty of other users and get updates from them. More than that, there are two ways for messaging: one public, the other is private. The public messaging is done through putting hash tags and private messaging can be done by putting "@username", and are private to only the sender and receiver. Because Twitter allows its users to reach a wide range of people. Large and prominent media organizations, such as BBC, CNN, and New York Times, created their own official accounts in order to tweet urgent news updates to thousands of followers. Twitter is also used by many influential political leaders to express their thoughts to people and discuss the critical issues with their followers, for instance, Donald Trump used Twitter as means to promote his presidential campaign and share his views on the political and economic issues of USA (Fahmy, 2006).

1.1.1.3. YouTube

YouTube is considered as a social media service that provides Internet users with watching and uploading videos. Through visiting YouTube, users would be able to upload and watch videos for free. From the beginning of its foundation, a great number of people visit the website globally and it has plenty of active users all around the world. In addition, it is estimated that YouTube views rate is more than one billion everyday (Al Gazzar, 2013). There is an assumption saying that the average time that an Internet user visits YouTube in America is more than one hundred minutes in a day, this implies that the website attracts a wider audience than the television (Flew, 2011).

Due to its extremely beneficial aspects, YouTube attracted the researchers to examine its social impacts on people. Beneficial aspects covers offering free service to upload and watch videos on the Internet. In other words, YouTube has become a highly influential social media website through its massive amount of video contents. It allows its visitors to upload their video contents or taking advantage of watching the uploaded contents on the website (Dahlberg, 2007)

1.1.2. Characteristics of Social Media

Scholars say, the features of social media give them an advantage over any other forms of media. These prominent characteristics are the cause of astounding a myriad number of users. Examples of these characteristics include having traits and

communication models that enables for both interpersonal and mass communication messages (Williams *et al*, 1988).

This allows a magnificent reach to a great number of audiences while keeping the features of personalized messages. Moreover, social media provide the virtual space necessary to enable online communities in which life events and memories can be recorded. In the shed of the light of the before-mentioned characteristics, we can come to the conclusion that social media have introduced magnificent changes that characterize current human communication. These changes can be divided into three categories: interactivity, demassification, and asynchronies (Williamset *al*, 1988).

1.1.2.1. Interactivity and Social Media

The Internet changed the traditional process of communication, which transformed the process of one to many models. Communication was allowed through user-generated content, in other words, users have the ability to circulate their own thoughts online (Forbrig, 2005).

Eventually, the merger of new technology and social media caused the way of communication to entirely change, and introducing the users to new sorts through which they are able to interact with each other. Crosbie states three kinds of media communication exist: firstly, Interpersonal Media which means the communication between only two people. The next one is Mass Communications, which enables the communication between one party and groups. The last one is New Media, which simply implies the maintaining communication among numerous people and groups (Forbrig, 2005).

According to Rice, New Media are communication technologies, which pave the way for interpersonal activities and exchanging information. This definition demonstrates the strong relationship between elements of new media including social media. So, interactivity can be defined as the level of the activities of the participants in a communication process (Schorr *et al*, 2003).

Prior to the technological developments, interactivity most often understood as interpersonal or face-to-face interaction among people. On the other hand, the form of interactivity has changed due to the recent developments in technology. New media

technology has strengthened and changed the forms of Interactivity since it offers a favorable environment for individuals, artists, singers writers and producers to circulate their works people around the world (Schorr *et al*, 2003).

Although interactivity is seen mostly in new media and social networks, it also existed in the conventional media. By way of illustration, audiences can be interactive with writers in TV and Radio programs and this happens through the participations of listeners or viewers (Schorr *et al*, 2003). Some scholars claim that new media technologies reinforce interactivity among people and create rapport between them through virtual world. As stated earlier, interactivity is highly present in daily life, ultimately new media technologies provided people with a second virtual life on which they have total authority and can be selective over their interaction.

Despite of the fact that new media activities cannot be understood without taking interactivity into account but those activities are different from each other (Harvey, 2013). Feldman says satellite TV is regarded as one of the kinds of new media that depends on digital technologies to increase the total of TV stations watched by the audiences, but the level of interactivity created by this kind of media is not fairly effective (Feldman, T. 1997, Crosbie, 2002).

1.1.2.2. De-massification and Social Media

Demassification means the considerable modifications that are made to the communication at mass level. These modifications can be understood in this manner: in place of content makers having complete authority over communication of the mass, social media users began having a cut. This comes as the consequence of the Web 2.0 provided consumer-creator message and allowed users to be content maker. This can be obviously noticed in social media networks in which consumers are allowed to share their messages and be used by great numbers of audiences. Therefore, the process of de-massification is applicable to a massive extent with the arrival of social media (Harvey, 2013).

1.1.2.3. Asynchronicity and Social Media

Asynchronicity can be regarded as one of the benefits of new social media. Asynchronicity means supplying social media users with choices and space to get and send

messages whenever they want without binding them to a specific period. There are some other features of social media including the following (Haynes, 2013).

i) Free services: Social networks not only provide free services but also its comfortable to use and subscribe these social media, furthermore it's easy to make group friends and create links between the members and it's easy to find new friends and share different ideas with them. ii) Social media is important in accelerating freedom of expression, supports different political social and cultural ideas and helps democratic way of thinking. Iii) Continuity: Whole messages and chats are recorded on social media, thereby user can turn to them whenever he/she likes. This continuity differentiates this subject matter from a subject matter that is discussed in ordinary social contexts. The ordinary social contexts are not recorded and cannot be recovered. Iv)The social media is an extremely important tool in mobilizing communities and societies. Social media has had a great effect on the demonstrations that started in 2011 and later known as Arab spring. By using social media services activists were able to organize uprisings and demonstrations against the regimes. Furthermore, activists proved that the world is no longer a closed place rather in in the age of social media there are no place to hide the free speech. Protests and revolutions as happened in some Middle Eastern countries. Regimes and their supporters similarly started employing social media websites as a tool of spreading their propaganda.

Citizens, particularly young individuals are motivated to join social media. These factors can be expressed as: (Mihalkanin, 2009). Personal reasons; some person interested in make friends and meet different people in different countries. Furthermore, individuals might like to disconnect themselves of daily routine and this is another personal reason. political reason, this can be considered as a very strong motivated reason, people have desire to find a place to express their views and see the statesman and decision makers point and Professional motives: the willingness to progress professional experience of the individual and rivalry. This might be a quick way to obtain jobs by the social media. Organizations and institutions are usually searching to create own accounts/websites on the social media in order that reaching vast audiences and costumers.

Users might get offers by social media (Cho, 2005). For instance: Personal profiles, which means every person can find information of one's date of birth, gender, age and race etc. relations and Friends: this serves is for meeting and finding friends

online; Messaging: this authorizes getting and sending direct messages to different person whether they are friends or not; Photos & Albums: people are allowed to upload vast different photos and images and can change their personal profile whenever they want. What's more they also allowed sharing these images and photos with friends to in order to see them and express their emotion by making like or leaving comments; Groups: many social Medias permit users to organize groups, which have special interests and targets. Admins of these groups have a space to discuss and exchange data. Furthermore, by creating "events" on social media websites and asking members to take in. Pages: Facebook created this service. They are used for business purposes such as commercials particular products.

1.1.2.4. The Impact of Social Media

The computerization of culture did not only lead to the emergence of new media such as computer games and virtual worlds, but it also redefined the existing ones such as photography and cinema (Manovich, 2001). Accordingly, previous media forms have been transformed into the content for new media, including, for example, the emergence of video in the late 1970s. Initially, video was a new media form as it transformed both TV and cinema into content. Computers now have the capacity to render all previous media forms as content, including the typewriter, fax machine, camera, radio, e-television and video. The boundaries between these previously separate forms become increasingly blurred as these technologies can be contained within a single medium, and in some cases within a single computer-based application. Therefore, there is no need for a range of different technologies for the processing of different types of data. Rather, all that is required is the computer (Vitak, 2011).

There is a pattern emerging with new media in that media consumers use media in the on-demand mode, as in the case of DVDs, iPods and MP3 players, Walkmans, YouTube, MySpace, other social networking sites, satellite and Internet radio, on-demand TV and videogames. This is in contrast with traditional viewers of broadcast and cable television where they watch TV at a certain time to catch their favorite TV show. With "new media" consumers are more in control of what, when and where they view, listen or interact with, and they have also more variety to choose from (Creeber, 2008).

The use of social media has also some effects on the learning process. It does not merely serve as a source for information and learning materials but it also helps to widen the horizon of individuals and make them understand the new world with its temporary characteristics. The use of social media helps sustain the learning process when compared to traditional learning.

Today, the amount of public affairs information and discussion online is massive, and its fluidity and dynamism are unprecedented. This goes back to the influence of the user-generated news content; where blogs took on a role of the Fifth Estate by critiquing traditional media and offering an alternative view. Political bloggers have been successful in influencing traditional media's agendas, and also in mobilizing citizenry for political action (Baumgartner, 2010).

Furthermore, social media led to the emergence of a new kind of journalism called “citizen journalism”. Citizen journalism is the term applied to situations in which ordinary people, who are neither trained journalists nor work for professional institutions, do essentially what professional reporters do -- report information. Such reports on information can take many forms, from a podcast editorial to a report about a city council meeting on a blog. It can also be an expressive image about incident or a whole news story. It can include text, pictures, audio and video.

According to international affairs blogger Sindhuri Nandhakumar “Citizen Journalism has endowed many people with a voice that they didn’t have before, enabling them to be important tools of information and change” (<http://journalism.about.com/od/citizenjournalism/a/whatiscitizen.html>).

Citizen journalism or “citizen media” rely mainly on the participation of ordinary people in the media business and processes. They do not only gather information but also comment on it without having any professional background. Citizen journalists also take care of the process of dissemination of information, relying on the new technologies, among which are social media.

Citizen journalism has almost brought the monopoly of traditional journalism to an end. Any ordinary citizen can now produce an editorial material; traditional media are no longer the only sources of information. Good examples of these reports are reports and

video clips on the London bombing in 2002, and the Tsunami disaster in South Asia. These two major incidents were reported by ordinary citizens using their own personal cameras. Citizen journalism was also apparent during the Parliamentary Elections in Egypt in 2010; when citizen journalists reported on and emphasized the violations and fraud of the elections results, and the forging that took place in many constituencies in Egypt. These reports were published very widely on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

In addition to controlling what the users consume, citizen journalists also contribute to the content of what is offered by the media, especially on the Internet. An example is the Wikis, in which the content and editing of the content are in the hands of the volunteers/users of the site, but subject to the democratic approval of the users of the Wiki (Baumgartner, 12 June 2009).

Social media have an international nature which crosses boundaries of space and time. This is reflected through virtual societies with special natures; they do not abide by cultures and limitations of traditional societies. These virtual societies have very minimal, if any, kind of control or censorship such as compared to that imposed by states and regulators on real-life societies (Dahlberg, 2007).

Talking about virtual social orders, people in general circle is viewed as a standout amongst the most unmistakable. The general population circle can be characterized as the space, which empowers subjects to communicate; their suppositions and states of mind unreservedly, where they can take part in open deliberations and data trades. It additionally encourages residents to some sort of accord or concurrences on issues, which are liable to reasonable dialogs. It is a sort of virtual or innovative world which does not as a matter of course exist in a particular or known land range or place (Janda, 2013). Discussing virtual social requests, individuals when all is said in done circle is seen as a champion amongst the most unmistakable. The all-inclusive community circle can be portrayed as the space which engages subjects to impart, their suppositions and perspectives energetically, where they can join in open considerations and information exchanges. It also urges inhabitants to make some kind of accord or concurrences on issues which are obligated to sensible discoursed The quick advancement of the new media and PC advances have the potential and the effect to change the very way of people in general circle and open up new channels of correspondences to take into consideration more voices to exist (Creeber, 2008).Open

circle comprises of a gathering of people who have comparative qualities and figure out how to convey and associate on an equivalent balance with each other (Dahlberg, op cit.).

People in general circle additionally rely on upon the flexibility of people to enter and move to the worldwide measurement, if conceivable. Here fairness in opportunity of expression is a critical issue; an issue that is stressed through new and online networking where worldwide nationals are furnished with access to each other. Members in people in general circle don't as a matter of course know each other however they have some mindfulness and comprehension of particular issues; any individual can join in with his thoughts and commitments. Open circle additionally pulls in many people to move from their private circle to a more extensive one: the general population circle.

This thought of virtual social orders and general society circle shed the light on another impact that online networking presented; the intuitive correspondence of gatherings of people. It has been contended that the expanded intuitiveness of the new media permits the gathering of people to play around with and make their own particular composite characters from different sources. With such a large number of various groups now open to clients on the Web, individuals can basically pick which personalities they need to receive and which they need to dismiss. This additionally permits people to choose how they characterize themselves as opposed to sticking to the constrained and slender number of decisions that once characterized people before.

Sites like YouTube, Facebook, and Myspace mirror the comprehension of participatory society. They don't just make virtual groups additionally permit gatherings of people to end up makers and in addition buyers of the media. This expanded intuitiveness among the group of onlookers of online networking provoked a few pundits to propose that there has been an expanded "democratization" in the way of the new media contrasted with the old media. "National Journalism", as depicted above, is a case to represent the expanded capacity of normal individuals to wind up required in the generation of the media, moving power far from the "creator" under the control of the gathering of people.

Online networking got to be vital stages that legislatures started to use to incorporate particular gatherings of subjects who are social networking clients and coordinate them during the time spent basic leadership. This happens through giving residents data and listening to their demeanors and conclusions. This new arrangement of correspondence between the administrations and natives might be seen as the new form of the customary official statements utilized as a part of advertising (Kyriakos N. Demetriou (auth ,2013).

A case of the administration's association with residents through online networking happened in 2009; the USA government chose to utilize social networking to interface with the natives to cultivate straightforwardness and support investment of nationals in the basic leadership process (Lievrouw, 2006a).The same happened in Egypt after the January 25th occasions when the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) made its own particular Facebook page and utilized it intensely to speak with the youngsters in Egypt.in another meaning An instance of the organization's relationship with inhabitants through Internet organizing happened in 2009; the USA government used long range interpersonal communication to interface with the locals to develop straightforwardness and bolster venture of nationals in the essential authority process (Ines, 2013). The same happened in Egypt after the January 25th events when the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) made its own specific Facebook page and used it seriously to talk with the youths in Egypt .The Facebook page of SCAF was propelled on the tenth of October 2012. The Ministry of Interior likewise made its Facebook page in 2012. (Lievrouw, 2006a).

This marvel spread everywhere throughout the world with government officials and political gatherings understanding the significance of online networking. Amid the US 2008 presidential decisions, and Iranian races of 2009, applicants utilized the online networking seriously to GCspeak with the residents and to pick up their backing. Obama was extremely dynamic in utilizing online networking amid the 2008 presidential decisions to pick up backing and to gather gifts for his crusade.

Additionally, firms and organizations have likewise welcomed the significance of online networking. Presently they utilize these media as advertising and advertising instruments to speak with potential groups of onlookers. Through online networking they can transmit data and news to their groups of onlookers quickly and specifically.

Online networking has likewise ended up imperative instruments in times of emergencies. Organizations and organizations started to utilize the online networking in the USA from April 2006. Facebook permitted firms to have their own particular pages beside individual locales. Inside two weeks from that date, more than 4000 firms were enrolled and had Facebook accounts. From that time, Facebook developed as another medium for advertising and building relations with the inward and outer groups of onlookers of firms (Lievrouw, 2006b). Online networking was additionally utilized for emergency and catastrophe administration. That was clear on account of the Haitian government's utilization of online networking amid the harming seismic tremors which occurred in 2010. Japan additionally utilized online networking and the cell telephones to oversee and control the emergency of the 2010 seismic tremors.

Urgent dialogs have been going ahead about the potential social impacts of online networking on individual relations. While a few researchers have found that online networking reinforce the social connections among people, others have demonstrated that they debilitate social connections among individuals (Livingstone, 2002a).

Portraying the effect and signs of new media, Neumann recommended that the line amongst mass and interpersonal correspondence and in addition private and open correspondence will in the end vanish as an aftereffect of the blasting advancement of a worldwide system that is very associated. This system incorporates diverse sorts of content; electronic, sound and video (Livingstone, 2002b). He additionally suggested that new media will affect sly affect individuals' channels of correspondence, for example, defeating the boundary of separation, raising and boosting the correspondence limit and pace, exhibiting more space for correspondence that is exceedingly intuitive, and prompting union of some time ago isolated correspondence frames.

Thus, as indicated by researchers and analysts, including Callum Rymer and Douglas Kellner, the Internet, and new media when all is said in done, present the likelihood and have the ability to prompt an open circle that can be depicted as majority rule in the postmodern time. This comes as an aftereffect of new media furnishing nationals with an intelligent stage on which they can turn into an indispensable part of a verbal confrontation that depends on strong data and that is not in view of progressive learning originating from particular sources. Then again, a few eyewitnesses show that

having a "virtual circle" is not pertinent; regardless of the said favorable circumstances of furnishing nationals with a stage to convey what needs be, "innovation alone can't encourage popular government" and this retreats to the Internet and new media improve "political correspondence" yet does not acquaint successful changes with its "interior structure" (Singer, 2006). Likewise, a few researchers, including Robert McChesney and Herman, propose that the effect of new media on the general public is not as promising. This does a reversal to their investigation that lone a set number of prevailing global information transfers partnerships figured out how to have fantastic overall effect, which repudiates the possibility of new media offering the possibility to accomplish majority rule government

Different researchers who pinpoint the positive and negative sides and essentialness of new media incorporate (Lister 2009). They proposed that early studies that researched new media were generally portrayed by the solid effect of innovation, implying that they concentrated on the effect of new media in view of the innovation itself. Such researchers contend that there are sure informal organizations in charge of creating, executing and subsidizing such advances and that such system ought to be followed for more strong results another elaboration to this is that Distinctive scientists who pinpoint the positive and negative sides and centrality of new media join Lister (2009). They suggested that early studies that scrutinized new media were for the most part depicted by the strong impact of advancement, inferring that they focused on the impact of new media in perspective of the development itself. Such analysts fight that there are certain casual associations accountable for making, executing and financing such advances and that such framework should be taken after for more solid results.

With the numerous progressions new media presented, one, which is viewed as unmistakable, would be their effect on society and the degree to which they bring about social adjustments. Subsequently, it is huge to talk about new media from another point, which is the manner by which distinctive social orders embrace them; as examination has demonstrated this to be pertinent when following Western nations' appropriation of new media and how this presented social change. Obtaining new media varies among various nations and starting with one household then onto the next in view of various social and social variables. One of the critical variables that decide new media appropriation in a general public is having the money related assets to procure new

media. The higher a financial class is in the public arena, the more probable they will have the longing and the capacity to obtain new media (Livingstone, 2002b).

1.2. THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

1.2.1. Background of Kurdistan Region

The Kurdistan region is located north of Iraqi state. This region has a privilege of self- governing. The region is founded of the three provinces Suleimaniah, Duhok and Erbil. The last province is the capital city of the region (O’Leary, 2002). Citizens of the region are mostly Kurdish, beside there are other ethnic groups living in the region such as Turkmen, Arabs, Armenians, Chaldean Assyrian and Syriacs (O’Leary, 2002). Citizens in the region mainly live in urban area, according to Kurdistan region statistical office (2016) % 81 of the population live in the urban area and %19 live in rural area. In addition, the young people are occupied the largest part of the region population (UNDP, 2004).

The majority of the populations in the region speak in Kurdish; it is a brunch of Indo-European family (O’Leary, 2002). Sorany and Kurmanji are two main dialects that are spoken in the region. Sorany is mostly used in Erbil and Suleimaniah, and Kurmanji is widely spoken in Duhok. And the other ethnic groups such as Chaldean-Assyrian-Syriac, Turkmen and the Arabs are using their own languages (O’Leary, 2002). The Kurdish language is used in the official administrative, and the government enforce the right of linguistic diversity by opening schools that teaches in Turkmen, Neo-Aramaic and Arabic (O’Leary, 2002). Furthermore, in the region the right of warship is warranted, the majority of populations are Muslims mainly they follow Sunni (Shafi’I) doctrine. As well as, there are some other religious groups such as Christians, Yezidis, Kakay and Shabaks (O’Leary, 2002).

1.2.2. A Historical and Political Overview of Kurdistan Region of Iraq

By the end of the First World War, the British army invaded Mosul Vilayet lately in 1918. The citizens are mostly Kurdish. The Kurdish was promised to have their state. The British authority managed to contact Sheikh Mahmud the most significant figure in the region, he came from an influential family and he was an important religious leader. Later on, it was clear that Sheikh Mahmud ambition was much bigger

that the British offered to him. He was trying to create an independent state (Kreyenbroek, & Sperl, 2005). Early in 1919 Sheikh Mahmud declared Kurdistan kingdom and appointed himself as a king. Later on, the British tried neutralizing his authority but he led a military rebel against the British. And Sheikh Mahmud took over the British high commissar head court in Sulaymaniyah and deported him. On April 20, 1919 the rebel could take control of Sulaymaniyah and replaced British flag by Kurdish flag. These events led to form the first Independent state for the Kurdish in the area that (Kurdistan region) is exist. Later on, the British army reinforcement they attacked Kurdish forces, and they controlled Sulaymaniyah city and they could arrest Sheikh Mahmud. He accused of armed rebel, overthrowing British and rising Kurdish flag, as result he was sent to the exile to India (Mohammed, 2013).

In the end of 1920, Mosul the latest Ottoman Vilayet became a part of a new formed state (Iraqi). The new state was run under British mandate, from the very beginning of the creation of the Iraqi state the Kurdish were engaged in civil and a military action with the central government (Thorbjørnsrud, Gran, Salih & Aziz, 2012). In 1921 the Iraqi state was established from former Ottoman Vilayet Basra, Baghdad and Mosul. Iraq was declared as an Arab kingdom, without regarding to ethnicity right to the Kurdish the second largest ethnicity in Iraq after Arabs. Several times the Kurdish got engaged in negotiation and military action with the Iraqi kingdom to gain self-determination but without any results (Tripp, 2002)

During the kingdom period, the Kurdish in Iraq had conducted several revelations mostly led by Mullah Mustafa Barzani but all these efforts were without any effective results including 1943 and 1961 revolution. He was the most significant, powerful and charismatic Kurdish leader (Yildiz & Blass, 2004). In addition, after the 1943 revolution in 1945 the Iraqi army with the British air forces attacked Barzani troops, he was left with no choice only leave Iraqi land toward Iran. In Iran he participated in establishing Kurdish republic 1945 few months later the Kurdish republic demolished by the Iranian army and Barzani with his troops forced to leave Iran escape to USSR (Logan, 2009). However, Barzani and his followers stayed in exile in Soviet Union until the July 14th, 1958 revolution in Iraq (Logan, 2009).

In addition, in the kingdom period the first major Kurdish political party was founded secretly in Baghdad (Kurdistan Democratic Party) in August 16, 1946, and

Mustafa Barzani was appointed as a president of the Party while he was in exile in Soviet Union (Logan, 2009). Furthermore, the Kurdish struggle in Iraq was represented by Kurdistan Democratic party under the Mustafa Barzani's leadership until he died in the United States of America in 1979 (Hevian,2013).

On July 14th, 1958, a coup was happened and was led by colonel Abd al-Karim Qasim and his fellow officer in the Iraqi Army, as a result the kingdom period was came to end. And the coup gave an opportunity to Mulla Mustafa Barzani to come back to Iraq from his exile in Soviet Union. The coup changed Iraq to a republic state, and the partnership between Arabs and Kurds was admitted in the new constitution (Rogg, & Rimscha, 2007). The Kurdistan Democratic Party and Mustafa Barzany agreed to work with the new regime, but both sides did not trust each other, later on military clashes happened between them.

Few years later in 1963, the Baath Party conducted a bloodshed coup as a result Abd al-Karim Qasim regime was toppled and he was executed. In the begging the Baath party tried to avoid military strike with Barzani, the regime attempted to negotiate with Mustafa Barzani. The negotiations between Baath and Mustafa Barzani led to a historical treaty signed on 11th March 1970. The 11th march treaty warranted an autonomy ruling in the Kurdistan region and the other districts that have a majority of Kurds citizens (Rogg, & Rimscha, 2007). When the Baath regime got stronger and took over Iraq they started to act speciously against the Kurds especially when they declared canceling the main parts of the treaty with regard to the self-governing law in 1974. However, the Baath party and Kurdish Peshmerge resumed to full-scale war in 1975. Under the regional and international circumstances, especially after the singeing Algeria garment between Iraq and Iran that was supervised by the US, the Kurdish revolution was paused for a while (Rogg, & Rimscha, 2007). By 1975 the Baath regime started to take over the Kurdish provinces by eliminating Kurdish village, burring a live of more than 180000 of Kurdish civilian citizens in the northern deserts. In addition, the regime used chemical weapons against the Kurds especially in Halabja city on March16th1988. And the regime started a systematic process of Arabzation to change the demography of the Kurdistan by replacing Kurdish and Arabs (Thorbjørnsrud, Gran, Salih & Aziz, 2012). However, lately after the Second Gulf war, the Kurdish area was seen a mass-uprising against the Iraqi regime and the Iraqi army interfered to take control over the mass-

uprising by using military action, as result in 1991 the UN Security Council Resolution decided to establish no-fly zone in Iraqi Kurdistan region (KR G website: <http://cabinet.gov.krd/>).

1.2.3. Forming the First Government in Kurdistan Region of Iraq

After establishment of no-fly zone from the United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 (UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, 1991) the Iraqi regime withdraw its administrations from Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok (Ahmad, 2012). These events gave Kurds an opportunity to hold the first parliamentary election to elect the members of Kurdistan National Assembly in May 1992 (Pring, 2015). The voting outcome gave the advance of Kurdistan Democratic Party with 51 seats and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan with 49 seats with reserve 5 seats for the Assyrian-Chaldean, Christian and Turkmen community. The election led to formation the first government in the Iraqi Kurdistan region (O'Leary, 2002).

During the ninetieth the region had seen several civil wars between the political parties, more significantly between the two most powerful parties the Kurdistan Democratic Party and Patriot Union of Kurdistan that divided the Kurdistan region government into two administrations; The Sulaymaniyah administration led by Patriot Union of Kurdistan and Erbil administration led by Kurdistan Democratic Party until both administration was unified in 2006 (Rogg & Rimscha, 2007). In addition, since forming the cabinet of Kurdistan region government, there are eight cabinets have been formed until 2013.

In addition, according to the Iraqi constitution (2005) article 116, the Kurdistan region is legal entity that comprises three province Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok. The language officially uses for governing matter is Kurdish. The political system is popular in the region is parliamentary with an executive power is shared between prime minster and president. In addition, Article 117-1 admits that Kurdistan parliament, Kurdistan regional government and Kurdistan presidency are the executive and legislative body of the region.

In the region the authority body is divided between executive and legislative administrations. The executive authority shared between the president of the region and

the prime minister. According to the Kurdistan parliament's Law-No 1, the Kurdistan parliament is the highest legislative authority and administration in the region see (www.krp.org). The parliament determined age 25 to be a parliamentary candidate. In addition, the female gender has a privilege of 30 percent of quota to be a member in Parliament. As well as, the Turkmen, Assyrian and Chaldean has privileged to have 11 seats in the region Parliament. Furthermore, since the first election that held in on 19 May 1992 the region has held parliamentary elections in 2005, 2009 and 2013. And any citizen in Iraqi Kurdistan region received to 18 years old has an opportunity to vote in elections see (www.perlemanikurdistan.com).

1.2.4. The Political System of Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The political system of Kurdistan region is strongly connected to the political parties and the Kurdish has been represented by these parties in the different stages of the Kurdish history, they engaged in war with the Iraqi regimes to defense Kurdish citizens, and they made peaceful agreements with the central regimes behalf of Kurdish citizens (Hevian, 2013). However, since the foundation of Iraqi state in 1921, the Kurdish hadn't had an influential political party until the organization of Kurdistan Democratic Party in August 16, 1946. And the single-party was dominated on the political system in Kurdistan region of Iraq until 1975. Since its formation the Kurdistan Democratic Party was the only party that represented the Kurdish, and the party involved in war in 1961 "The September Revolution-1961", and made peaceful negotiation such as "11th, March 1970" with the Iraqi regimes to gain Kurdish civic, cultural, national and political rights in Iraq (Hevian, 2013).

The party and its mass organizations invested in different groups in the Kurdish society. The party very hardly tried to organize the Kurdish society through forming several political branches and mass organizations, for the same purpose, the party established some mass-organization such as Kurdistan Democratic Youth Union-1953, Kurdistan Students Union- 1953 and Kurdistan Women Union-1952 and etc (Al-Kharsan, 2001). And the party very strongly employed media tools especially newspapers and radio to send its messages and disseminate political awareness among the Kurdish citizens. The party issued some newspapers including Khabat - Kurdish, 1963, and Al Taakhy - Arabic, 1966 (Al -Jaf, 2014). And a Radio station that was operated from the mountain "The Voice of Kurdistan-1963". The Kurdistan Democratic

party led armed revolution against Iraqi regime in 1961-1975 (The September Revolution), and went in a peaceful negotiation which led to declare an autonomy authority in Iraqi Kurdistan according to treaty of (11th, March 1970) between Mustafa Barzani and Iraqi Regime (Al-Kharsan, 2001).

After the fall of (The September Revolution) the Kurdistan Democratic Party lost control over the Kurdistan political sphere, and several parties split up from it. And the single party system was ended, and the multi-party system was the major phase of Kurdistan political sphere. The parties were working on their own ideology and agenda to work against Iraqi regime such as Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Kurdistan Socialist Democratic Party-1976, Kurdistan Toilers' Party-1985, Communist Party branch of Kurdistan-1934, Kurdistan Islamic Movement- 1979, etc Amongst them, the formation of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan that had a major influence on the Kurdish political states, and was in a peaceful and armed competition with Kurdistan Democratic Party (Al-Kharsan, 2001), that was formed in 1976 by Jala Talabni (Hevian, 2013).

However, after the mass-uprising in the Iraqi Kurdistan, the no-fly zone was established and the Iraqi regime withdraws its administration in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, all these led to have opportunity to go to participate in elections. The first election was held in the region in 1992, and it was the first time in Iraq and the region people participate in elections and have an opportunity to participate in decision making. As a result of, civil war between Kurdistan Democratic Party and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan no more election had been held until 2005. In 2009 and 2013 elections were held in the region to elect the members of region parliament. Moreover, three more elections were held to elect the provinces council member in 2005, 2009 and 2013, and in 2009 people went to vote to elect president of the region. In addition, the Kurds voted in elections to determine their representatives in Iraqi parliament in 2005, 2010 and 2014, as well as the citizens voted in a referendum in favor of accepting new Iraqi constitution (Aziz, 2014).

1.2.5. The development of Social media in Kurdistan Region of Iraq

As the only region of Iraq, Kurdistan delights in more self-sufficiency from Baghdad than any other parts of the country. Constitution of Iraq permits the region of Kurdistan to form a government with enormous self-sufficiency, counting the power to ratify legislation which decides federal law. This facility has proven tremendously subtle, mainly as it affects the oil-rich sovereignty of the region and the on-going clash between Baghdad and Erbil over control of natural resources. Iraqi Kurdistan has reserved full advantage of its semi autonomy by creating its own influential government, regulations and administration. The Parliament of the region is now going to arrange a debate about its own Constitution. The Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Communications Ministry identifies Communications and Media Commission of Baghdad but has its own controlling power. Iraqi Kurdistan has its own moderately liberal press law, 96 and to a convinced extent has been a freer region for media. The law shelters only print publications, but promises liberty of expression to all the inhabitants "within the framework of respect for personal rights." It shows that no journal is going to be bolted or sanctified. Nevertheless, as reported by Human Rights Watch and the Committee in order to Defend Journalists, media outlets—mainly those who openly criticize the two governing parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan—have confronted permissible retribution, counting publication closures and offense lawsuits. Journalists and reporters, counting those who are dealing with online media, have confronted harassment, intimidation, threats and even murder. Asian the rest of Iraq, the gap between the law's necessities and the authenticity on the ground is unambiguous. Libel leftovers a criminal wrongdoing and judges may issue arrest permits journalists on this source. Journalists are naturally imprisoned at police stations when named in a complaint until they post bail. The KRG aggressively broken down on 60 days of Arab Spring-inspired protests in Sulaimaniyah on Spring 2011. At least, 10 people died in the conflict. Local and global organizations, involving UNAMI have stated worries about the behavior of the protesters, including claims which the forces of Kurdish security castoff extreme force and ill-treated and mistreated protesters at the rallies and while in imprisonment.⁹⁸ The community and journalists practice self-censorship on convinced matters which are considered "red lines" in Iraqi Kurdistan, counting conformist Kurdish customs, the historic fight against the regime of Saddam Hussein and reporting of political "gores and the

government. The region is making steps in increasing the Internet and social media while the Kurdish press is away from liberty. Iraqi Kurdistan has delight in more liberties since attaining semi-autonomy from Baghdad in 1991. The Internet was available in Kurdistan previous to the rest of Iraq. Though, local data are not available, assessments show that penetration of Internet is now slightly developed in the region. Internet and social media have qualified important development in the current years, with politicians in Iraq and Kurdistan who are using Facebook and Twitter. Many political declarations are now supplied via Facebook in Iraqi Kurdistan. Along with better Internet admission and increasing public request for better online services, relative security of Iraqi Kurdistan has attracted external investors. In terms of infrastructure, two broadband cables transporting Internet to Iraq from Iran and Turkey that are passing through Kurdistan. Korek, one of Iraq's three mobile operators, is founded in Erbil and is organized to launch 3G mobile services in the region. The community of Kurdish Diaspora is also motivating the usage of social media from out of the country. These expansions further divide the Kurdistan region from Baghdad, already overwhelmed in clashes over autonomy and oil-revenue sharing of Erbil. While legitimate, the two sets of rules and regulations (national and local) could cause differences in media and Internet governance and make deeper the gaps between Erbil and Baghdad. The Kurdish alliance in the Parliament of Iraq has stated worries about the Informatics Crimes Law, and Kurdish leaders are openly serious of direction of the country. Erbil's worries about edging democracy of Iraq and its push to make more independent regions in Iraq are likely to form the debate as the 2013 local elections near. Social media could play a protuberant role in demonstration in Kurdistan, and in determining the destiny of key political matters (Beccalli, 2012)

1.2.6. The Kurdistan Region Youths' interaction with internet and social media in Iraqi Kurdistan region

The internet and social media have been used widely in the last ten years all over the world. In past several years internet users increased unexpectedly and they have reached 2.27 billion users all over the world. Nowadays Facebook users are more than internet we users in 2004. In spite of the slow internet server in Iraq, there are over 2.3 million of Facebook users and that is equal to 8% of all Iraqi population. In a nationwide survey of 2900 Iraqis found that 16% of internet users have used smart phone to send a statue update to the social network. The increase of new Facebook users in 2012 in Iraq was unbelievable because 700,000 users has join Facebook in 2012. In all Facebook users, 40% of them are between 18 to 24 years old and the users between 25 to 34 are the second-largest age group to access the social network.

Another reason of digital development appeared in March 2012 with the launch of the local version of Google, **google.iq**, which helps local users to find search results that are locally relevant. Conflicts and international sanctions have a remarkable effect on the internet in Iraq, but a remarkable change has seen in recent years and if government invests in renewing and upgrading the communications infrastructure, there will be a vital progress in using internet just like developed countries (Andrea Beccalli 2012). According to a recent report by the Open Net initiative, "there have been no overt government efforts to restrict access to the internet, nor official acknowledgement that the government monitors e-mail or internet chat rooms". In mid-2012, there were no known cases of online censorship. However, there were clues that some of internet users were not allowed to express their views freely via the internet, even in sending emails. There were many cases of threats against the journalists and activists, particularly during the protests against the local government in 2011. Lack of services, limited of freedoms and frustrations over the corruptions made Arab Spring-inspired street protests in Baghdad and Kurdistan that were largely mobilized via social media. These protests were stopped under the threats of political parties in power and several civilians were killed and many were wounded. Social Media had a remarkable role in these demonstrations. The news were reached everywhere in the world via social media. While the internet is officially unregulated,

the government reports to block "immoral" online content, and asked the internet cafes to register with the ministry of communication as an excuse to stop violence and negatively influence on Iraqi youth. These attempts to regulate the internet by illegal punishments, filtering will further weaken the process of democracy and the threats to freedom in Iraq (Beccalli 2012).

A large number of Kurdish youths use social media to have share their views including political life and taking part to their community. In this process, social media like Facebook and Twitter have great roles on which they can create political groups and express their views. (Ratto, 2014). Meanwhile, the Kurdish youth are afraid to go into political engagement because of the regions' outdoor threats like ISIS but still they have chances to become political participants using Facebook, Twitter and the related. Here the role of Kurdish policymakers, politicians and thinkers is very significant to get the youths involved using social Medias giving them a greater chance in this way. A recent research shows that three tens of the people use social networks weekly in Iraq and Kurdistan in which 94% use Facebook, 41.8% Google+ and 25.8% Twitter (Matt Ratto, 2014).

The Internet and social media have been increased intensely over the last decade. The number of the Internet users has been doubled to 2.27 billion in the last five years over the five years. Today the number of Facebook users is more than the number of the people who were using Internet in 2004, the year the world's largest social network was founded these global trends are mirrored in Iraq, where, despite low Internet penetration, there are over 2.3 million Facebook users. This exemplifies approximately 8% of the population that is more than the estimates of Internet penetration of Iraq, but this contains logging of Iraq on abroad and public sites like cafes. The figures climb when mobile usage is taken into account: one 2011 nationwide survey of 2,900 Iraqis found that 16% used their phone to send a status update to a social network. The development curve of Facebook in Iraq mainly vertical, with more than 700,000 users began to link the site in 2012. The users of Facebook in Iraq, who are between 18 and 24 years old, are over 40%. The second-largest group who has been contacting the social networking site are the ages of 25 and 34, and also approximately three quarters of all users of Iraq are men. In March 2012, another sign of digital development arose with the promotion of the local version of Google, google.iq, which

permitted Iraqi's users to get search results which are nearby pertinent. The penetration of Internet is estimated to develop further when the government participates in reconstructing and upgrading the communications substructure, which was ignored because of conflicts and international agreements (Andrea Beccalli 2012).

As stated by a current report by the Open Net Initiative, there have been no obvious government efforts in order to limit access to the Internet, nor certified acknowledgement which the government monitors e-mail or Internet chat rooms. No cases of online restriction had been known on May 2012. Though, there were reports which showed that individuals and groups were incapable of engage in stating views via the Internet spontaneously, counting sending e-mails. As with journalists in traditional media, there were cases of threats which are well-documented to protesters via social networks, mainly during anti-government protests in Baghdad and Sulaimaniyah on Spring 2011. Preventions over corruption, poor services and imperfect freedoms drove Arab Spring-inspired street protests in Baghdad and in Kurdistan which were greatly militarized via social media. At this time, the demonstrations were blocked and turned bloody, but shifted responsiveness to the role of social media in public speech. In addition, they put pressure on makers of Iraqi policy to defense cyber freedoms. Some plans had been acknowledged by the government formally to block "immoral" online content, talked to and asked the Internet cafes to; list in the Ministry of Communication while the Internet is formally unfettered. The specialists defend these measures by requesting that convinced websites inspire violence and influence Iraqi youths in a negative way. The government had replied to the reservations that raised by the development of the Internet and social media by ordering security apprehensions and suggesting restrictions which clamp down on essential rights and liberties. The efforts to control the Internet through harsh retributions, control and "changing will further decline the process of democracy in Iraq and could make a public reaction over threats to liberties (Beccalli 2012).

1.3 THOUGHT AND DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Political investment is a vital normal for present day social orders as it assumes a critical part in accomplishing far reaching advancement of society. It is additionally a critical component in modernization and political improvement. It is the instrument through which political and social forces figure out how to exhibit their arrangements and dreams for creating society and affecting the procedure of basic leadership and the political exercises of governments and authorities.

Political support is profitable when it figures out how to accomplish changes and influence the general population approach of the legislature. It is likewise a volunteer activity, which originates from a decent conviction of the person that he/she is a piece of the political setting and that he/she has an immediate enthusiasm for supporting or restricting it. No political activity might be seen as political investment unless it influences people in general approach and the basic leadership process in the general public. In this manner political cooperation incorporates a common intuitive relationship between the individual and the political setting. On the off chance that the cooperation does not happen, then it is not a genuine political support.

The issue of political support has been a substantive range of enthusiasm for both sociologists and political researchers, chiefly in light of the fact that it relates to the quintessential demonstration of popularity based citizenship, for example, voting in races for the parliament. While races and voting conduct draw in the consideration of numerous sociology scientists, different appearances and structures connected with political engagement in a more extensive sense have additionally gotten broad study.

In the past times, political interest was bound to the elites, exceedingly taught and well off individuals in the public eye. The colossal dominant part of individuals was not politically included. The circumstance has changed as from the renaissance age and amid the mechanical transformation amid the eighteenth and nineteenth hundreds of years. More individuals turned out to be politically dynamic. This might be because of some components, which incorporate (Fennema, 2014). Works of thinkers, learned people and writers, which called for and advanced estimations of correspondence, flexibility and open enthusiasm to make more interest in the political life. Innovative advances which prompted the far reaching of thoughts regarding popular government

and more investment. More impedance from governments, which prompted more straightforward impacts on the day-by-day lives of individuals.

The expression "political interest" is a present-day term. It was not extensively utilized, until the investigations of Sidney Verba (1978), the American political researcher who was among the pioneers in the investigations of political support with the assistance of Norman Nie. As indicated by them political cooperation includes the subjects talking their brains and illuminating the administration authorities about their needs and concerns while applying weight on them all together for the legislatures to make a move. This movement is done in a majority rule state, where each native has the privilege to concur or can't help contradicting everything that happens in people in general circle. The residents ought to have the capacity to achieve the administrations and request their rights and the legislatures need to hear them out and react (Mussarat, 2014).

The privilege to political support alludes on natives' right side to try to impact open undertakings. The most eminent activities that reflect political support is communicated in voting in races, as well as in joining a political gathering, remaining as a competitor in a race, joining a non-administrative backing assemble, or taking an interest in an exhibition. As presently executed by the United Nations, different working elements survey signatory states regard for this privilege and, when infringement are resolved to have happened, may approach states to change their practices (Yi, 2013).

Two foundational instruments characterize the privilege to political support: the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Declaration) and the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Covenant). The Declaration is an announcement of general standards. Since it is not a bargain, the gauges of conduct that it characterizes have just the status of non-restricting standards. Be that as it may, the report is in any case of colossal lawful and political significance; for it gave the establishment to later legitimately restricting global arrangements as well as for some national governments rights systems.

Approved right around three decades after the Declaration, the Covenant is like the prior record in its substance yet appreciates the status of global law. As a coupling settlement, the Covenant forces a few commitments on signatory states and

incorporates some consistence systems. Political support varies starting with one individual then onto the next; it additionally contrasts from a general public to another. The different standards and frameworks can influence the sorts of political support yet toward the end we as a whole meet at one point which is the way to go of taking part. The support additionally depends on the measure of comprehension to the political framework and the on-going circumstance. The chronicled foundation too assumes a persuasive part in framing the people groups' behavioral demonstrations and their state of mind contingent upon the foundation they have (Young, 1993) .

1.3.1 The levels of political participation

Researchers recognize four levels of people concerning their association with the political administration (Fennema, 2014):

The main level comprises of members or activists. They should have no less than three states of the accompanying: participation in a political association, giving gifts for a political association or a political applicant, going to political gatherings frequently, partaking in constituent battles, sending messages to parliaments or government authorities or the press concerning political issues, and talking about political issues with people from outside his own nearby group of friends. The second level incorporates people who are occupied with political movement or have a connection with some sort of political action. This may incorporate the individuals who vote in races and talk about open undertakings and political advancements in the general public.

The third level incorporates people who are negligible with regards to political action. Those people are not normally inspired by political exercises and they don't dedicate any of their time or assets for political exercises. They may take part in political exercises just when they feel that their very own advantages are undermined or when they have a few objectives that they need to accomplish from the support. The fourth level incorporates political radicals who hone their political exercises outside the legitimate stages. They may likewise utilize savagery and riots and political deaths and seizing of political figures. Besides, scholars contend that political cooperation might be characterized by positioning a few exercises as takes after (Fennema, 2014):

- 1- Discussing legislative issues and the capacity to induce others.
- 2- Going to political and social meetings and get-togethers.
- 3- Complying with guidelines and laws and paying of expenses
- 4- Drawing nearer government authorities or gathering individuals when confronting a given issue.
- 5- Joining an association that has optional impact in the public arena.
- 6- Voting.
- 7- Joining a political institution.
- 8- Donating cash for a constituent battle.
- 9- Applying for a gathering or a legislative position.
- 10- Affecting the administration's choices.
- 11- Taking essential political choices.
- 12- Protests.

Subsequently, real political support is not just worried with the procedure of voting; in any case, any movement that can impact the general population circle and meddle in the political life is viewed as a political cooperation. Case in point such exercises could be taken after in the endeavor to be chosen or to join a specific crusade, or even advance a specific hopeful through the distinctive media outlets. It could likewise be in the demonstration of understanding or conflict with the distinctive approaches. While discretionary turnout and voting, which is the foundation of the vote based political procedure, has been apparently diminishing in the course of the most recent decades in all European states (O'Toole et. al., 2003), scholastic specialists and technocrats have been investigating elective cooperation exercises that could impact and shape basic leadership forms, inside an assortment of social and social settings.

The national can be a political member in his general public either through being a part of a specific gathering, non-administrative association, party, battle... and so on - or by his individualistic demonstrations. These days, a man can contradict the administration's choices by joining or giving for a specific cause, requiring a challenge or even by marking an appeal and attempting to get range of the authorities. Emphatically affirmed that "native investment in political procedure is dependably not just the declared right written in the Constitution, additionally the individual ability to

take an interest." Thus, the endeavor to volunteer in the political life and to continue battling for one's privilege is a central point that keeps the political support destined for success.

Political interest results in enhancing the personal satisfaction in social orders. As per (Weitz-Shapiro & Winters, 2008): brain science research results recommend that for the most part people craving to feel autonomous and productive contrasted with their associates; subsequently they turn to the procedures that lead them to meeting such goals. In this manner, individuals feel upbeat when taking part in certain procedure that can bring an attractive result. Political cooperation is one of the procedures that is relied upon to build the feeling of joy and fulfillment. It is relied upon to expand independence, relatedness and skill (Weitz-Shapiro & Winters, 2008).

There is additionally an attention on the mental impacts of political support, through which legislative issues can influence the mental association of a man and prompt changes in his inclinations. This may happen through presenting people in general to political jolts or including them in a political exchange which can influence them and alter their opinions and their behavioral contribution. The media likewise play on the mental side of the residents, trying to change their planned demonstrations (Althaus, 2002).

Being a politically dynamic individual is extremely valuable for the native and for the general public he/she is living in. Through cooperation he/she can contribute in the choices having process and make an effect in his/her nation. Political subjects have the opportunity to roll out a positive improvement and have the flexibility to talk their psyches. Their eagerness to take part executes each apprehension and gives them sentiments of quality and delight.

There is no particular definition for political support, yet for instance as indicated by Huntington and Nelson political investment is a sort of movement in which the natives can influence the choices and activities of the administration (Huntington, Huntington, & Nelson, 2014). This movement might be individual or aggregate, arbitrary or sorted out, tranquil or rough, lawful or illicit, powerful or non-compelling. Different scientists have underlined this importance however they included that political cooperation could be immediate or roundabout either by the impacting of approach

making or by the determinations of the individuals who make these arrangements. Both exercises impact the activities of the administration and force the subjects' assessments (Haynes, 2013).

Political cooperation might be seen as one of the essential exercises in any given equitable society. It is basic for establishing the framework for the vote-based procedure as it reflects resident representation. It can likewise be seen as a sign of accomplishment or disappointment of the law based procedure. The most well-known type of political support might be found in decisions, which are essential system for majority rule government. Joining political gatherings, non-administrative associations, portals and vested gatherings are moreover sorts of political venture. Difficulties and shows are also sorts of political intrigue however the some considers them to be negative sorts of political backing (Shi, 1997).

Routine of political cooperation depends essentially on the circumstances of society including political, monetary, social and social atmosphere. It likewise depends on the individual's capacity and inspiration and the open doors offered by conventions and philosophies in the public eye. Political investment is the finished consequence of an arrangement of social, monetary, social, political and moral elements. All these components may decide the way of society and its political framework. They additionally decide the kind of social and political relations and to what degree they coordinate the cooperation which is the principle normal for cutting edge common countries it means It in like manner relies on upon the individual's ability and motivation and the open entryways offered by traditions and theories in the general population eye. Political speculation is the completed outcome of a course of action of social, money related, and social, political and moral components. Every one of these parts may choose the method for society and its political system. They moreover choose the sort of social and political relations and to what degree they arrange the participation, which is the rule typical for forefront normal nations.

Political cooperation is not ability or an acquired trademark, but rather it is a learnt aptitude which is earned by an individual. Political cooperation likewise creates and becomes more profound all through the distinctive phases of lives of people and through their association with people, gatherings and foundations in the general public. Political support of youngsters depends basically on their availability and the odds they

are given to do as such. Notwithstanding the significance of political interest of youngsters, they are distinctive regarding level of their political investment, which differs principally starting with one society then onto the next (Svensson, 2015).

Political interest may likewise be seen as the arrangement of exercises did by natives with a specific end goal to have a say in political issues and to influence the work of political foundations in a given society. Here and there it is called mass or famous cooperation. All ideas are bound to the investment of individual in various social, political and financial undertakings, at the end of the day the immediate support in issues of society.

Teorell (2006) on a triple qualification between responsive, participatory and deliberative models of vote based system recognized three originations of political support: as impacting endeavors, as immediate basic leadership, and as political examination. He contended that each of the three models is connected with various sought results of political support: break even with assurance of interests, self-improvement and subjective authenticity.

Quintelier and Van Deth (2014) researched the relationship between political investment and political states of mind with respect to cultivating just engagement. Numerous creators essentially assume that political mentalities fortify political conduct. Utilizing three-wave board information set with more than 3,000 young people, their discoveries demonstrate that political states of mind don't as a matter of course go before conduct. Discoveries additionally demonstrate that it is a great deal more probable that political cooperation fortifies political dispositions than that states of mind trigger support. This doesn't imply that demeanors are unessential to conduct; however the converse effect is much more grounded. All the more particularly, they found that the impacts of being politically drawn in on political interest, viability, certainty and standards of citizenship are plainly more grounded than the impacts of these demeanors on cooperation.

Political interest has a few qualities, which might be outlined as takes after (Aly, 2010):

Firstly action: it implies that the people are dynamic keeping in mind the end goal to accomplish an objective or an arrangement of objectives. Secondly Volunteering: people act intentionally. They do what they do with a solid sentiment social obligation towards objectives of their general public and not as indicated by any materialistic or good weight.

Thirdly selection: political cooperation gives the members the privilege to offer backing or resistance to the authorities and governments and as indicated by their genuine advantages and legitimate objectives. Fourthly indefinite: political support is not characterized to a spot or a period. It might be done on nearby, national or even territorial levels. Fifthly participation is a privilege and obligation: political support is a privilege and obligation for each resident. Everybody has the privilege and obligation to join in talking about issues that are important to him/her and the general public; he has the privilege to vote, to keep running as a possibility for a political post the most surely understood kind of political backing may be found in choices which are vital framework for greater part control government, Joining political get-togethers, non-authoritative affiliations

1.3.2. Significant of Political Participation

Political participation is significant for demonstrate the democratic procedure in society. It state democracy; there is no democracy and political participation. The significant of political participation may be reflected throughout the following aspects (O'Toole, 2003). Political participation is a significant shape of education. National learn throughout political participation their rights, duty and need. So, political participation is based on social responsibility, which is based on finding an equalized balance between rights and duties.

Political participation is an important feature of democratic systems. The progress of democracy depends, to a great extent, on the scale and range of participation and making it a right for every people in the nation.

Political participation is commanding to more firmness in society. So, this leads to national feelings of lawfulness of the political authority as the participation donates the citizen the right to grip the rulers and liable human responsible for their own feats and doing. Person who is aware of the status and accurate outcome are able of correctly judging on the government's performance and policies. Political participation also

supports the relation between the person and his own society, which will be image on the individual's feeling of closeness and citizenship.

Political participation as well makes individuals more ware of troubles in their societies and the accessible sources. This commanding to a more formative relation between the citizen and governmental establishment True participation means that policies of the government are advocated by the citizens' beliefs. Participation also is commanding to people arranging themselves and conclusion in more collaboration.

Participation may command sometimes to volunteering exercise. It also assists to make citizens carefulness for the open funds. This is a trouble, which subsists, in most developing societies where the public funds are dominated to abuse. It also assists to extend and decline breakdown. Political participation more commanding to people emotion that public funds including their own individual funds. Participation of citizens in the decision-making process helps facilitate the execution of plans and programs. Citizens' acceptance of new plans or projects does not occur without their full participation; based on their full knowledge and awareness of these plans and projects and their values (Ghafar, 2009).

Participation also assists in strengthening citizens' relation with the political authority and its aims it also helps to raise the citizenship, locality and liability passions. It also gains social integration and helps to raise the abuse of regime. Participation also can command to coequality and licenses. The significant of participation is not only about notify the governments with the needfulness of the citizens, but it also goal at affecting the action and stations of the ruling authority by keeping them well commonsense with the necessarily and priorities of the people so that they can work consequently. Accordingly, with the raising in the level of political participation, the stronger the society get and the more the realization of social, cultural and political form for the success of different progress arrangement.

1.3.3. Types of Political Participation

Researchers differentiate a couple of sorts of political cooperation. Political exercises might be separated into conventional, for example, voting in general elections, and unconventional, for instance, making web log, or partaking in the online-political groups and building up or participating in protesting movements (Toffler, 2005).

Other researchers recognize two sorts of political contribution; formal and informal. The formal cooperation alludes to support in the political process through the governmental organizations and the executive. The informal support may incorporate through the affiliation in political parties, lobbies, and weight gatherings. It might likewise be reflected in rehearsing the privilege of voting in general elections and participating in appointive crusades. It may also incorporate expressing ideas and states of mind in the media or in gatherings and conferences (Svensson, 2015). A few researchers see political involvement as a three-fold process (Toffler, 2005). It includes the cognitive dimension, the value dimension and finally and the behavioral dimension.

The first measurement incorporates the political information and realities that a man has about various political points and in addition his mindfulness about various occasions, dates and political figures. Attitudes, propensities and inclinations dimension is connected to the values and believes of persons. The individuals are eager to distribute them in each society with the goal that these qualities may frame the principal segment of a wide range of political, social and cultural relations in the society. This might be thought about the people's mentalities and projects which they endeavor to force on political powers and policy makers. Practice of political participation includes a wide range of conduct; serene and legitimate exercises which people may take and which will influence the basic leadership process and determination of political peruses whether in a conventional or non-conventional way. Every one of the three dimensions of political cooperation are influencing and being influenced by each other. This connection shows that political cooperation is a complex concept. It begins with political knowledge and after that moves to political attitudes, inclinations, and values which are translated into political activity/behavior. This political action might be conventional, for example, voting in general election or non-conventional, for instance, making of online websites and setting up protest movements (Toffler, 2005).

Another researcher, Milbrath (1966), displayed a comprehensive classification of political participation by exhibiting some sorts of political involvement as following:

- i) Declared and concealed political participation

The political contribution might be pronounced when a man discusses a political issue on TV or some other medium. It might likewise be covered up if a man does not

have any desire to announce it. He may send a letter to a political or a legislative authority without specifying his/her name, it is inspired by a paranoid fear of being rebuffed or harmed. This additionally applies when a man keeps in touch with some political material online without saying his/her name or uncovering their actual character.

Close and remote participation: The individual might be sure in communicating his political perspectives and here it is a nearby participation. This interest might be polished as a remote support if the individual chooses not to pronounce or express his/her perspectives.

ii) Seasonal and constant political conduct

Some political conduct might be in a particular time, for example, voting general elections. Other political behavior might be consistent and extended, for instance, the participation of political parties.

iii) Political interest incorporates giving and taking

A few sorts of political interest may speak to a conduct of giving from the individual such voting or partaking in appointive campaigns. Other may take the types of taking, for example, administration, equity, and security. Expressive and justifying conduct of individual. Expressive political conduct is simply the conduct which is fulfilling, i.e. it fulfills some requirement for the person when he/she does it. Justifying political conduct is constantly connected to an objective and frequently goes for causing change.

iv) Verbal and non-verbal political conduct

A large portion of political activities requires utilization of symbols. Other may need to utilize capabilities and influential skills.

v) Social and non-social activities

Some political activities require some skills from the individual, for example, the informative abilities to achieve the psyches and hearts of voters. Different activities may not require these aptitudes.

Featuring how political cooperation can happen, Verba (1978) distinguishes 4 types of political interest such as:

i) Voting:

It is the most widely recognized type of participation. It is additionally the most quantifiable form. It expresses some kind of social pressure and its outcomes influence all citizens. Voting conduct is the residents' conduct amid the time of rivalry or struggle as this procedure incorporates an opposition and strife among various powers. Citizens do not make voting times but rather they are defined along with a particular timetable and as outcomes to different reasons or occasions happening in a nation.

ii) Mobilization activities:

They are customary actions through which a citizen can impact authorities. These activities are critical as they clear up subjects' inclinations concerning particular policies. Here conduct isn't individual as in the case of voting; yet it is an aggregate behavior, which requires coordinated effort and activity from the natives. This sort of exercises influences the policymakers.

iii) Societal movement:

This conduct incorporates the aggregate impact of subjects on decision-makers. It includes two sorts; first the individual correspondence from nationals to administrative associations in regard to a particular political issue, and second non-fractional cooperative activities identified with gathering and composed trials to manage and raise social issues. Societal are done outside the casing of constituent process. Nevertheless, they transfer an enormous amount of data to leaders and strategy creators. The pressure here relies upon the quality and impact of the groups in a public.

iv) Communication to accomplish a particular reason:

This applies to person's contacts with authorities to introduce a specific issue or issue related to him/her or an individual from his/her family. This frame prompts less clash among groups Verba contends that this type of political cooperation is less noteworthy than the previous three forms as it does exclude an aggregate movement. It additionally needs consistent contacts between the citizen and political organizations however it has an extraordinary level of activities from the people to impact political foundations and chiefs.

With respect to channels of political contribution, researchers distinguish some important channels to perform political involvement (Aly, 2010) which include:

i) Direct voting in elections

Voting might be viewed as one of the essential techniques for political cooperation as demonstrated previously. This is connected straightforwardly to democracy, which implies that individuals enhance authority through the free selection of their representatives. Although it is exceptionally imperative, its genuine achievement depends for the most part on some factors. The essential factor is the responsibility of those delegates and the capacity of the public to really figure out how to consider them responsible and not depending on blind trust, which may which may cause a representative isolated from the people who selected him.

ii) Participation in public referendum:

Most of democratic systems may utilize the general referendum to increase public support for a law, or an activity. A few governments may utilize this sort of participation to

iii) Accomplish certain social, political or financial purposes or to make crucial revisions to their constitution. That was the situation in Egypt in November 2012 when people voted in favor of protected revision, and yet again in January 2014 after the June 30th occasions.

iv) Participation through public opposition

As the residents might be given the right, as indicated by Constitution to restrict a specific law or manage which has been passed by the parliament amid a specific timeframe.

v) Participation through popular voting:

In this the subjects might be given the privilege to recommend a few recommendations for laws then these propositions are introduced for the concerned organizations for endorsement.

vi) Participation by the request to scratch off consequences of elections:

Here the residents may express their resistance to some elect representatives or high authorities on the off chance that they demonstrate any sort of absence of straightforwardness. This might be completed by coordinate lawful and legal procedures.

vii) Participation by utilizing pressure methods:

This might be shown through the privileges of striking or exhibition to accomplish political objectives or civil defiance or even brutality against official organizations and its figures. This channel might be utilized when all other lawful participation channels are not accessible or can't be utilized. This channel is the most hazardous as it might prompt a full public refusal of the decision political administration.

viii) Participation through pressure lobbies:

At the point when official channels for participation are not powerful. It is vital to indicate that a considerable measure of these pressure lobbies which may work under the umbrella of political participation, speak to certain classification/class of individuals and not every one of the general population. These lobbies may point for the most part at accomplishing political and monetary goals of these groups. Israeli/Zionist lobbies in the USA might be viewed as a decent case for these pressure lobbies.

ix) Participation through political parties:

Political gatherings are the imperative foundation in democratic administrations. They are the most critical establishments which give the political régime it is democratic legacy.

x) Participation through civil society associations:

Common society is likewise an essential player in the political process. Associations, for example, ladies' affiliation, student's unions, proficient syndicates, cultural and religious societies play dynamic role in pressurizing the legislature.

In spite of the fact that this is a vital direct in numerous nations, the role of civil society in the Arab World is as yet thought to be exceptionally feeble. This might be because of the disappointment of civil society associations to address the psyches and hearts of the general population and thus pick up their help.

1.3.4. Young People and Political participation

Political cooperation in creating nations is confronting a few issues and hindrances in most of the countries around the world regarding corruptions by the high rank of authorizers and. Most creating nations experience the ill effects of the far reaching of lack of education and destitution this is makes to prevent people to get developed from long time ago until this current time. The emergency of political cooperation in the creating nations is additionally because of the need and longing of political administrations to keep up soundness and coherence paying little respect to fulfillment of their own kin (Stieglitz, 2012). In the meantime, individuals in numerous creating nations are in need, and attempting to decide their self-fate. This emergency was thought about significantly the frail execution of political administrations. Most political cooperation channels are extremely powerless and therefore political investment is not that solid or compelling. A few researchers (Beck, 1994) contend that the absence of interest in most creating nations backpedals to some reasons which include (Demetriou, 2013).

Social socialization, which may prompt separation youngsters from the political life. This sort of socialization is the most widely recognized in the Arab World. Kids are raised up to compliance and they are not spurred to participate in political life in order to be developed in the future. In any case, it is basic in the Arab families that youngsters

are raised to the affection for the country they do not let child to participate in the main meeting because they will get more power in the future as soon as possible, they will be active more than other who are not do the same things.

The political atmosphere that encompasses the investment procedure and the individuals who are keen on cooperation. There is doubtlessly when the political force is in the hands of a specific class in the public, it generally tries to keep and look after it, by keeping any sort of political interest from natives outside or who don't have a place with this class. Along these lines, the decision class for the most part puts snags and confinements on political interest of individuals from outside this decision class.

Loss of individuals' trust in political frameworks received by the political administrations. This might be illuminated in the contrasts between what they announce and what they do; talks versus activity. Weight of troublesome living conditions and financial circumstances, other than the development of new types of utilization can likewise cultivate this loss of trust. This prompts people who are caught up in their own life issues; attempting to keep up a decent way of life for themselves and their families.

The sentiment being distanced can go about as another reason that prompts the loss of impetus and inspiration to end up dynamic political members.

Suppressive activities against resistance.

Low levels of training and the across the board of lack of education particularly in rustic zones.

Political gatherings are normally shaped from elites and they may draw in some others, however the greater part of individuals wants to stay outside this condition. Regardless of the fact that they join, their parts are constantly minor.

Fear of governmental issues and power might be another purpose behind absence of political support actually this will be a great reason on this matter. This apprehension is clear in numerous Arab nations where individuals abstain from taking part in governmental issues because of a paranoid fear of being harmed or rebuffed.

Some political models and associations are embraced from the western nations. Much of the time they sometimes fall short for the circumstance in creating nations (Stieglitz, 2012)

Youngsters' political interest has for quite some time been a worry. Loss of group ties, little enthusiasm for and absence of information of political procedures, low levels of trust in legislators and developing skepticism of equitable establishments are frequently seen as markers of the more youthful eras' debilitated feeling of

citizenship and political engagement also this is another reason. so This perspective is generally bolstered by making reference to low and declining levels of cooperation in conventional methods of political engagement, for example, voting and joining political gatherings , this is example will be clarify the point (Stieglitz, 2012).

Nonetheless, youngsters have a tendency to pick new types of political investment. These political activities are viewed as "new" in light of the fact that they didn't exist before the most recent decades (like for instance investment by means of the Internet). Moreover, specialists contend that some customary types of expression (e.g. exhibitions, dissents, marking petitions, blacklists and so on.) can be seen as "new" in light of the fact that youngsters append new implications to them and rethink their parts (Furlong & Cartmel, 2011).

The way of political activities has changed fundamentally as they have turned out to be more individualized, specially appointed, issue-particular and less connected to conventional societal cleavages. Through new types of political support, youngsters can feel that they impact political choices all the more straightforwardly and adequately (Sloam, 2013). These adjustments in methods of political engagement are connected to new view of citizenship. The examples of socialization of today's youngsters are extensively not quite the same as their folks' era, having been influenced by the procedures of globalization, individualization and ascent of the new media (Beck, 1994).

Young individuals vote not exactly more seasoned eras. As indicated by the European Social Survey, in 2010, 61 percent of youthful respondents matured 22-29 expressed that they voted in the last national decisions, rather than the 78.1 percent of more than 30-year-olds. In any case, as underlined above, youngsters' political interest is not in decay it is in change (Beck, 1994).

Despite the fact that races have a significant part in popularity based social orders, it is not just voting that should be considered while assessing political cooperation, there are numerous different methods for attempting to impact political chiefs and approaches. Youngsters may vote not exactly more seasoned eras, however in the meantime, they are over-spoken to in option, alleged "new" types of political support. Taking into account Euro-gauge overviews directed in 2012, this area takes a

gander at youngsters' observations on various types of political investment and in addition how they really express their sentiment on openly imperative issues. Youngsters' recognitions and conduct are stood out from that of more seasoned age bunches another explanation to this is that. In spite of the way that races have a noteworthy part in prevalence based social requests, it is not simply voting that ought to be considered while evaluating political collaboration, there are various diverse strategies for endeavoring to affect political boss and methodologies. Youths may vote not precisely more prepared times; however meanwhile, they are over-addressed in alternative, asserted "new" sorts of political backing. Considering Euro-gage reviews coordinated in 2012, this range looks at youths' perceptions on different sorts of political venture and likewise how they truly express their assumption on transparently basic issues. Youths' acknowledgments and behavior are emerged from that of more prepared age packs.

As indicated by United Nation Development Program (UNDP, 2012) Enhancing Youth Political Participation all through the Electoral Cycle, the next might be pinpointed:

Since the Arab Awakening numerous adolescent in the area have remained politically dynamic through "political developments" rather than drawing in with and in political gatherings. Young fellows and ladies are customarily dynamic politically in colleges (when permitted) yet all the time frustrated with political initiative and political establishments and rejected from approach improvement. Therefore, political activism of youth is not sorted out as indicated by formal groupings.

Opportunities for youth to take part in administration and take part in political and basic leadership forms depend to a great extent on the political, financial, and social connections where social standards in numerous parts of the world result in different types of oppression young ladies.

Both formal and casual engagement can be comprehended as political interest, and both are valuable for a distinctive and strong majority rules system and ought to be upheld. There is solid proof that the support of youngsters in formal, institutional political procedures is moderately low when contrasted with more established natives over the globe. This difficulties the representativeness of the political framework and

prompts the disappointment of youngsters.

The family may likewise be seen as a vital determinant of political support of youngsters. Alesina and Giuliano (2011) set up a converse relationship between family ties and political cooperation; such that the more people depend on the family as a supplier of administrations, protection, and exchange of assets, the lower is one's urban engagement and political support. They likewise demonstrated that solid family binds seem, by all accounts, to be a substitute for summed up trust, as opposed to a supplement to it. These three builds - urban engagement, political cooperation, and trust - are a piece of what is known as social capital; thusly, in their paper, the scientists added to the examination of the cause and development of social capital. They set up these outcomes utilizing inside nation proof and taking a gander at the conduct of workers from different nations in 32 diverse destination places.

Unmistakably the family ties in Egypt and other Arab nations are solid. This, as per contention of Alesina (2011) may be seen, as one reason for the absence of political investment among youngsters.

1.3.5. Social Media and Political Participation

One of the primary elements of online networking is to permit individuals to Trade thoughts, effectively and rapidly, which strengthens correspondence and intuitiveness among individuals from an informal community. Interpersonal organizations additionally empower individuals to utilize diverse media, for example, pictures, recordings and projects. In another meaning one of the essential components of Internet systems administration is to allow people to exchange considerations, successfully and quickly which reinforces correspondence and instinct among people from a casual group. Interpersonal associations: engage people to use different media, for instance, pictures, and recordings and ventures the discourses and trade of thoughts may ask individuals to work in present reality. Discoveries of past studies have demonstrated that absence of political cooperation of youngsters may once in a while be because of their diminished utilization of media and introduction to news (Weller, 2013).

In spite of the fact that online networking was not intended to be wellsprings of news and data to start with, they were primarily apparatuses for social contacts, more than a large portion of the clients of youngsters, may utilize them as a wellspring of political data. Online networking were likewise used to acquire data on hopefuls, which may help them in the voting procedure (Richard D. Waters, 2009).

Notwithstanding the way that youngsters' utilization of conventional media diminished, their utilization of the Internet and online networking is soaring. This may be one reason that can bring about all the more politically dynamic youth. In created nations, it was found that young who use media more have a tendency to be all the more politically dynamic. This gets to be evident in voting and different types of political interest, briefly it should be say that, Despite the way that youths' usage of routine media reduced, their use of the Internet and web systems administration is taking off. This might be one reason that can realize more politically element youth. In made countries, it was found that youthful who use media more tend to be more politically dynamic. This gets the opportunity to be apparent in voting and distinctive sorts of political interest (Caramani, 2011). As indicated by Zhang and his partners (2010) numerous researchers discover the range of concentrating on online networking as intriguing and huge. Nonetheless, look into that has been as of late led on online networking.

Primarily thinks about the attributes of clients and their use designs. Very few studies researched the part of person-to-person communication destinations in making residents occupied with the equitable procedure. The said researchers directed a study on Southwest inhabitants through phone study. The study researched the extent to which residents' engagement in political or community exercises are applicable to relying upon online networking; including YouTube, MySpace and Facebook. The study concentrated on analyzing how far long range interpersonal communication locales can really affect "political states of mind and majority rule support". As indicated by the discoveries long range informal communication destinations use is very significant to city investment while interpersonal examination was found to reinforce and bolster political and municipal support.

Without a doubt, when researching the political investment, one can't disregard the impact and the imperative part of online networking. In the 2008 U.S. Presidential

Elections, informal community destinations, for example, Facebook permitted clients to share their political convictions, bolster particular applicants, and associate with others, talking about political issues. Be that as it may, do political exercises on Facebook influence political cooperation among youthful voters, a gathering customarily saw as detached with respect to community engagement? Then again do these exercises speak to another case of feel-great investment that has minimal certifiable effect; an idea frequently alluded to as "slacktivism" i.e. online interest just with no genuine cooperation.

CHAPTER TWO

METHODOLOGY

2.1. THE QUANTITATIVE APPROACH

The research approaches are divided to three methods qualitative, quantitative And mixed-methods approach (Williams, 2011). Based on the existences of the knowledge, the facts that exist in the field and the empirical evidence and previous studies about the subject of the study, this study are conducted on quantitative method (Creswell & Clark, 2007). Moreover, the study examines the theories, the hypotheses developed from the literature review; the relations between the variables of the hypotheses are tested. Furthermore, variables are measured and data are collected numerically to detect the relationship between the variables and to analyze the finding statistically (Castellan, 2010).

The quantitative approach needs a proper strategy of inquiry, the most recommended with quantitative approach is survey method (Creswell, 2013). And the cross-sectional method was used to conduct the survey the questionnaire is used to collect data.

2.2. THE SUREVY

The survey method is employed to collect data quantitatively in order to describe the attitudes, perspective and opinions of the population of the study. The survey is depended on cross – sectional method and questionnaire is used to collect data in a specific point of time and place (Creswell, 2013).

However, conducting survey study has several advantages including taking a sample to represent a large population, best way to collect data quantitatively from a large population. And it is easiest method to be conducted indifferent way to collect data especially in time questionnaire is employed (Sincero, 2012). The survey study relies on using questionnaire, as it has several advantages including,

Easy to code and analyze data statistically in time (fixed – response) are provided. In addition the (fixed responses) best described to get answers that researcher tries to collect from the respondents, but the researcher should be knowledgeable about the responses that offer to the respondents.

2.3. QUESTIONNAIRE OUTLINE AND IMPROVEMENT

The first version of the questionnaire is formed in English, and it is translated to Kurdish language. It is designed in a way to be simple and easy in term of language and wording. In the beginning a necessary instruction and information is provided such as title of the study, purpose of the study and answering the questions.

The survey tool – questionnaire included (22) questions separated into three fundamental parts; the first part includes socio-economic part. The second part secures the subjects of Internet and social usage. The third part includes incorporates a few inquiries applicable to political knowledge, interest, discussion and participation.

The respondents are asked to complete by their self, the questionnaire has numerous advantages such less time, low cost, best tool to collect data from a very wide population and a large population, it's very fast to be adopted rather than interviews, avoidable to the interviews effects and best described to collect data quantitatively.

2.4. THE SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

Examining with its current idea, as we probably are aware it today, developed amid the eighteenth century with the ascent of the probability hypotheses. Most reviews depend on examining as opposed to agreement; as it has many favorable circumstances. These may incorporate; sparing time and expenses and additionally empowering the scientist to look at and gather an incredible measure of factors and exact information (Cohen, 2007). This review is completed on a purposive example, i.e. a Non-probability approach. Subjects of the purposive specimen are chosen by specific qualities. The individuals who don't have these qualities are prohibited from the example (El Gazzar, 2013). In the present review the purposive specimen was observed to be the most reasonable. The review goes for analyzing Kurdish youth's communication with web-based social networking and how online networking concerning their political participation influences them. Subsequently, it is vital to indicate particular age

classifications that speak to Kurdish youths. For this review, the qualifiers choose them from the age gathering of 18 to 30 years. The writing demonstrates that youngsters in this age classification utilize online networking more than some other age aggregate (El Gazzar, 2013). Additionally, the review members must be clients of the web-based social networking. In this way, it was likewise essential to choose just the individuals who utilize online networking. In the present review think about, the purposive the sample included 250 college understudies, matured 18 to 30 years, who are dynamic clients of the Internet and online networking. Dynamic clients essentially allude to the individuals who get to their Facebook/Twitter accounts much of the time, collaborate with and respond to the substance they experience. A dynamic client additionally has a tendency to be particular with respect to the media content. Understudies who were not utilizing the Internet and the web-based social networking or the individuals who don't fall inside the said age range were rejected from the review. The sample is taken from undergraduate students at Halabja University, and 250 students are participated in the survey, the survey

2.5. PRETEST

For this study pilot test was led, on an example of 20 respondents and requesting that they compose their notes. In the wake of getting their input, their remarks were thought about before finishing the poll to be prepared for the genuine information gathering. Along these lines the survey was approved and it was viewed as prepared for information accumulation.

Before beginning the genuine information accumulation, a pretest is done on the questionnaire with few understudies (20) to ensure that all inquiries are clear and that the dialect is likewise justifiable. Appropriately, pretest is directed in Kurdish variant of the survey the questionnaire is finished by understudies independently. From this pretest, it is found that the poll is solid and prepared to be use for information gathering.

2.6. DATA COLLECTION

Information of the overview is gathered utilizing the questionnaire, which is the information accumulation device for the review. Kurdish adaptations of the questionnaire are utilized, the surveys are conducted on April 1st- May 1st, 2017.

2.7. CODING AND ANALYZING DAT

After collecting data from the respondents, the data needed to be coded in order to be analyzed statistically as follow:

2.7.1. Coding data

The data were collected from participants divided into three main components:

2.7.1.1. Socioeconomic data

age was regrouped into two age categories and coded 18-23(1) and 24-30(2). Gender coded male (1) and female (2). Faculty of Studding: College of education humanities (1) and College of Science (2). State of employment: Unemployed (1), part-time worker (2) and full-time worker (3). Place of residence: were coded city (1), sub-city (20) and village (3). Total monthly household income by (Iraqi Dinar): less than 501000 (1), 501000 – 1000000 (2) and more than 1000000 (3). Income sources: Monthly salary (1), daily wage (2), trade revenue (3), investment revenue (4) and rent income (5). Household Size: Less than 5 (1), 5 – 8 (2) and more than 8 (3).

2.7.1.2. Using social media

Questions (9 and 10) respectively “Do you have a Smart phone?” and “Do you have a Personal Computer?” were yes, no questions and coded yes (1) and no (2). Question (11) the respondents were asked about access to Internet through different devices such as (smart phone, personal computer and other devices and the next question (12) were about respondents’ access to Internet in different places such as home, working places, public places and etcetera, the both mentioned questions 11 and 12 were measured on five-point Likert scales and the answers were coded never (1), hardly ever (2), sometime (3), often (4) and always (5). In question (13) the respondents were asked whether they have an account on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube or not, the responses were coded yes (1) and no (2). The next question 14 the respondents were asked about daily spent time using Facebook, Twitter and YouTube the responses were coded less than one hour (1), 1-3 hours (2) and More than 3 hours (3). Moreover, in question 15 the

respondents were asked how important are Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to get news and political information, the question measured on five-point Likert scales and the answers were coded not important at all (1), not important (2), somewhat (3), important (4) and very important (4). In question 16 the respondent asked how frequently they follow up political, social, religious, economic and other subjects through social media, the question was measured on five-point Likert scales and the answers were coded never (1), rarely (2), sometime (3), frequently (4) and very frequently (5).

2.7.1.3. Political participation

Question 17 were detected the respondents' political knowledge and coded correct answer (1), incorrect answers (2) and I do not know (3). Question 18 asked the respondents involvement in political discussion the question was measured on five-point Likert scales and the answers were coded never (1), rarely (2), sometime (3), frequently (4) and very frequently (5). Question 19 the respondents' membership in political party and civic organization were asked the responses were coded yes (1) and no (2). In question 20 participating in latest elicitation was asked the respondents were coded yes (1) and no (2). Questions 21 was concerned with respondents' participant in political and civic activates the question was measured on five-point Likert scales and the answers were coded never (1), rarely (2), sometime (3), frequently (4) and very frequently (5). Lastly question 22 asked respondents interesting in politics the question was measured on five point Likert scales and the answers were coded not interested at all (1), not interested (2), to some extent (3), strongly (4) and very strongly (5).

CHAPTER THREE

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

3.1. DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSES OF THE DATA

3.1.1. The Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Study

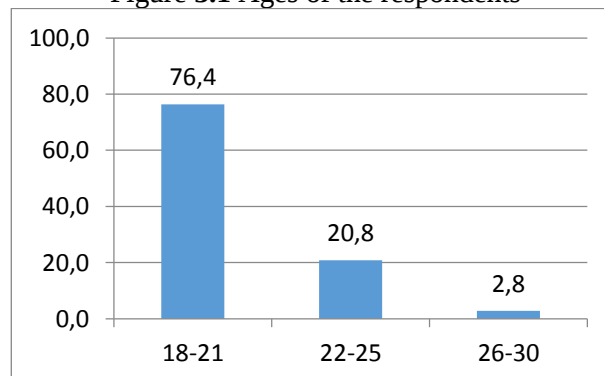
In this survey, totally two hundred and fifty students have taken to fill out a questionnaire about their age, gender, faculty of study, place of residence, the state of employment, total monthly household income by Iraqi Dinar, income sources, and household size respectively.

Relating to the age of respondents, (76.4%) of the participants in this study are in (18-21) years old, (20.8%) are categorized in (22-25) age group, the minimum rate of the included respondents with (2.8%) are fallen between (26-30) years old (see table 3.1 and figure 3.1).

Table 3.1 Ages of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-21	191	76.4	76.4	76.4
	22-25	52	20.8	20.8	97.2
	26-30	7	2.8	2.8	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.1 Ages of the respondents

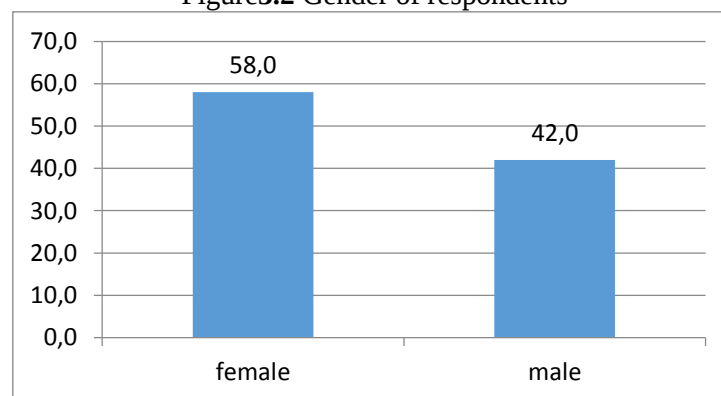


Considering the gender of the respondents, it is displayed (42%) of them were male, whereas (58%) of the students were female (See table 3.2 and figure 3.2).

Table 3. 2 Gender of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	female	145	58.0	58.0	58.0
	Male	105	42.0	42.0	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure3.2 Gender of respondents

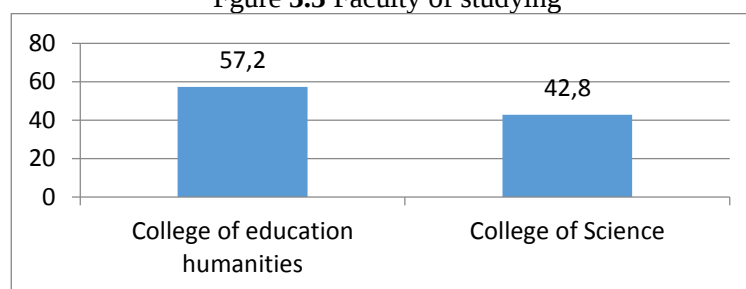


The participants who were received the questionnaires were belonging to two faculties, college of education humanities (57.2%) and college of science (42.8%) (See table 3.3 and figure 3.3).

Table 3.3: Faculty of studying

Faculties	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
College of education humanities	143	57.2	57.2	57.2
College of Science	107	42.8	42.8	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.3 Faculty of studying



The students were asked for the place of their residence (89.6%) mentioned that they live in City, on the other hand a minority of them (10.4%) live in village (see table 3.4 and figure 3.4)

Table 3.4: Place of residence

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid city	224	89.6	89.6	89.6
village	26	10.4	10.4	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.4: Place of residence

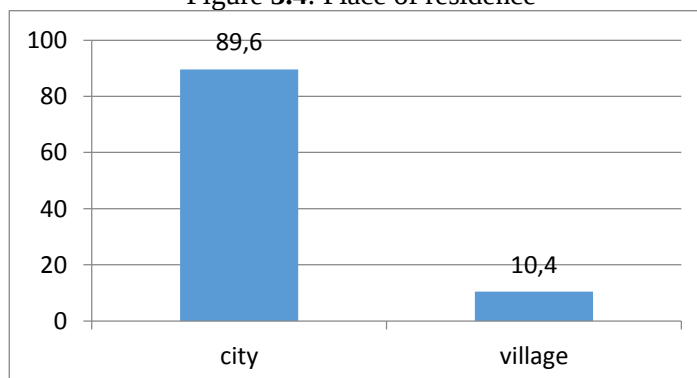


Table and figure (3.5) demonstrates the state of employment of the respondents. The majority of them (89.6%) were unemployed on the contrary, (10.4%) were part-time worker.

Table 3.5: State of employment

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
unemployed	224	89.6	89.6	89.6
Valid part-time worker	26	10.4	10.4	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Table 3.5: State of employment

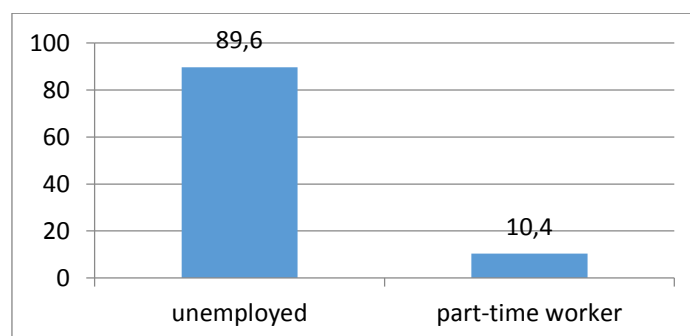
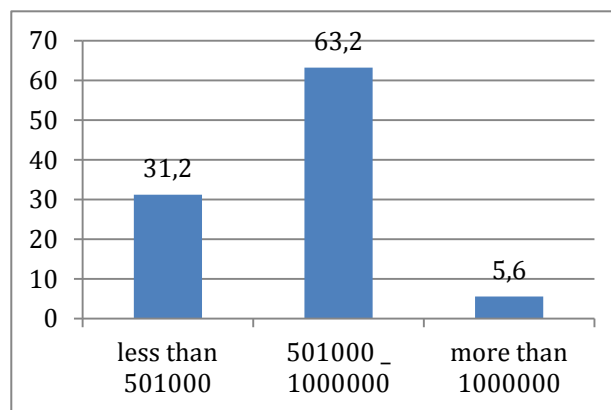


Table and figure (3.6) shows the total monthly household income by Iraqi Dinar (IQD). The data recoded into three groups less than 501000, 501000 - 1000000 and more than 1000000. Results indicate that (63.2%) of the sampled students has 501000 – 1000000 monthly revenue. It is followed by (31.2%) of the respondents that they get less than (501000) per family. Later on, (5.6%) of them mentioned that they obtain more than (1000000) approximately.

Table 3.6: Total Monthly household income (by Iraqi Dinar (IQD))

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid less than 501000	78	31.2	31.2	94.4
501000 – 1000000	158	63.2	63.2	63.2
more than 1000000	14	5.6	5.6	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.6: Total Monthly household income by Iraqi Dinar (IQD)

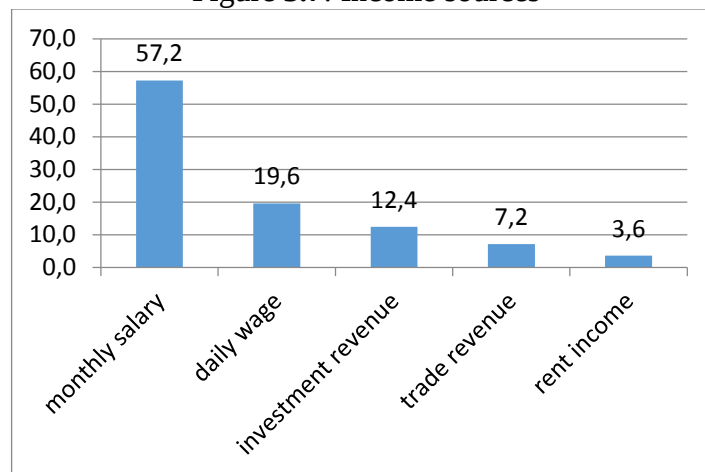


As explained in table and figure (3.7), the income sources of the students' family are earned in different ways such as; monthly salary (57.2%), daily wage (19.6%), investment revenue (12.4%), trade revenue (7.2%) and rent income (3.6%).

Table 3.7: Income sources

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid monthly salary	143	57.2	57.2	57.2
daily wage	49	19.6	19.6	76.8
investment revenue	31	12.4	12.4	89.2
trade revenue	18	7.2	7.2	96.4
rent income	9	3.6	3.6	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.7: Income sources

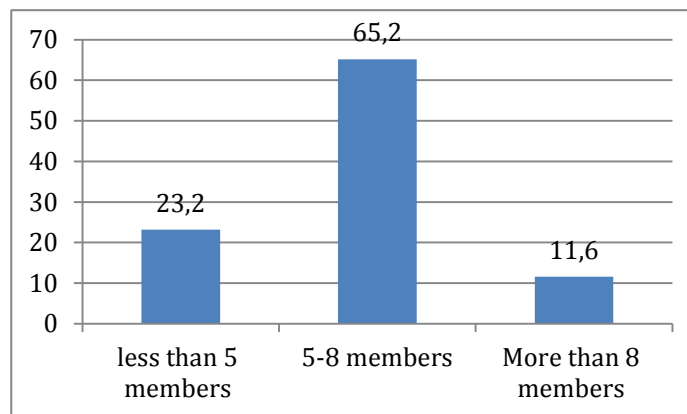


When the sampled participant asked for the number of family members their answers are demonstrated in table and figure (3.8). (65.2%) of the respondent's family size were 5-8 persons, (23.2%) were less than five members and (11.6%) of them were more than eight members.

Table 3.8: Household size

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 5 members	58	23.2	23.2	88.4
	5-8 members	163	65.2	65.2	65.2
	More than 8 members	29	11.6	11.6	100.0
	Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.8: Household size



3.1.2. Consuming Social Media

3.1.2.1. Having Communication Devices (Smartphone and Computer)

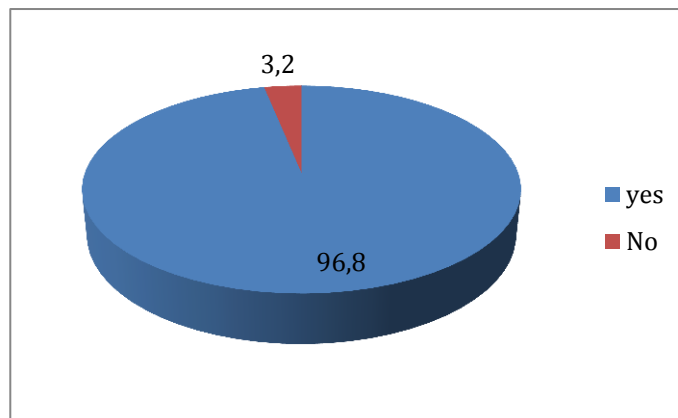
3.1.2.1.1. Smartphone

The students were faced another inquiry; do they have a smart phone or not? 96.8% of them mentioned (Yes), on the other hand just 3.2% of the sampled community stated (No), (see table 3.9 and figure 3.9).

Table 3.9 having smart phone

device	Yes		No	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
smart phone	242	96.8	8	3.2

Figure 3.9 having smart phone



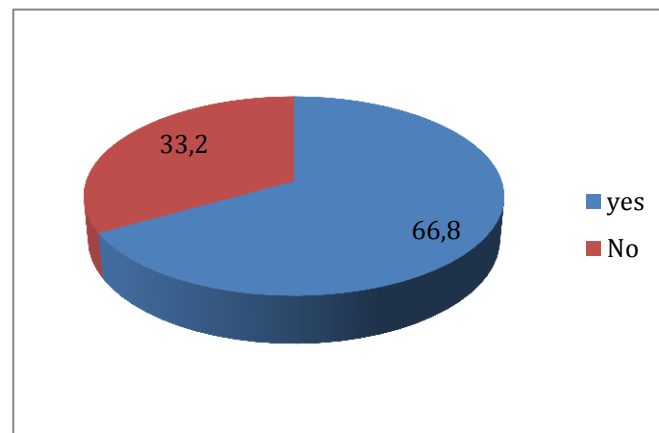
3.1.2.1.2. Computer

When the respondent asked for; do they have a personal computer or not? 66.8% of them replied (Yes), in the contrary 33.2% of the participant claimed (No), (see table 3.10 and figure 3.10).

Table 3.10 having computer

device	Yes		No	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
computer	167	66.8	83	33.2

Table 3.10 having computer



3.1.2.2. The access to Internet via (Smartphone and computer)

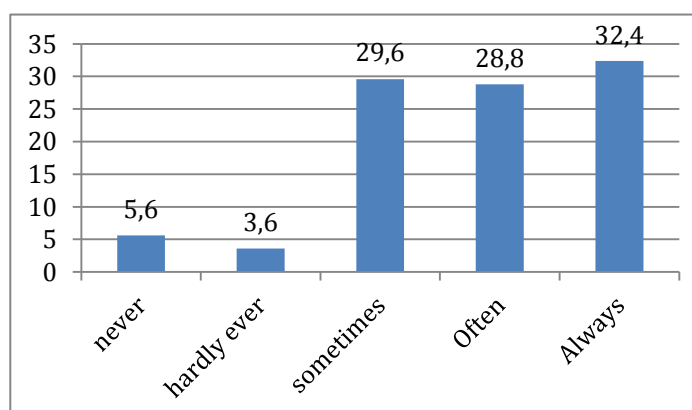
3.1.2.2.1. Access to Internet via Smartphone

The sample community were faced another query about accessing to Internet by using their smart phone. (32.4%) claimed that they always access to Internet through their Smart phones, (29.6%) of them mentioned sometimes, (28.8%) of the sampled population replied often, (5.6%) reported that they never access to Internet through smart phones and (3.6%) responded that they hardly ever access to Internet via their smart phones (see Table 3.11).

Table 3.11 Respondents' access to Internet via Smartphone

Device	Responses									
	Never		hardly ever		sometimes		Often		Always	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
smart phone	14	5.6	9	3.6	74	29.6	72	28.8	81	32.4

Figure 3.11 Respondents' access to Internet via Smartphone



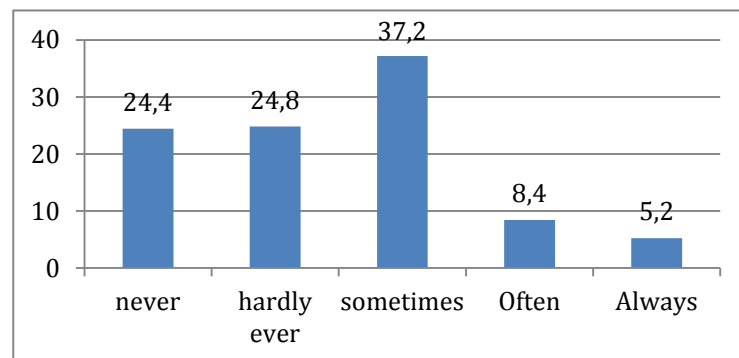
3.1.2.2.2. Access to Internet via Computer

The students were asked frequently access to Internet through their personal computer; (24.4%) conveyed they do not access to Internet via computers, (24.8%) answered hardly ever, (37.2%) mentioned sometimes they access to Internet via computer, (8.4%) responded said often, and (5.2%) replied they always use comuter to access to Internet (see table 3.12 and figure 3.12).

Table 3.12 Respondents' access to Internet via Computer

device	Responses									
	never		hardly ever		sometimes		Often		Always	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
computer	61	24.4	62	24.8	93	37.2	21	8.4	13	5.2

Figure 3.12 Respondents' access to Internet via Computer



3.1.2.3. Access to Internet at different places

The participants were enquired about accessing to Internet at home; (6.4%) stated they never access to Internet, (7.2%) mentioned they use Internet hardly ever at home, (24.8%) reported they access to Internet sometimes when they are at home, (38.8%) answered they often access to Internet, and (22.8%) replied they always use Internet at home.

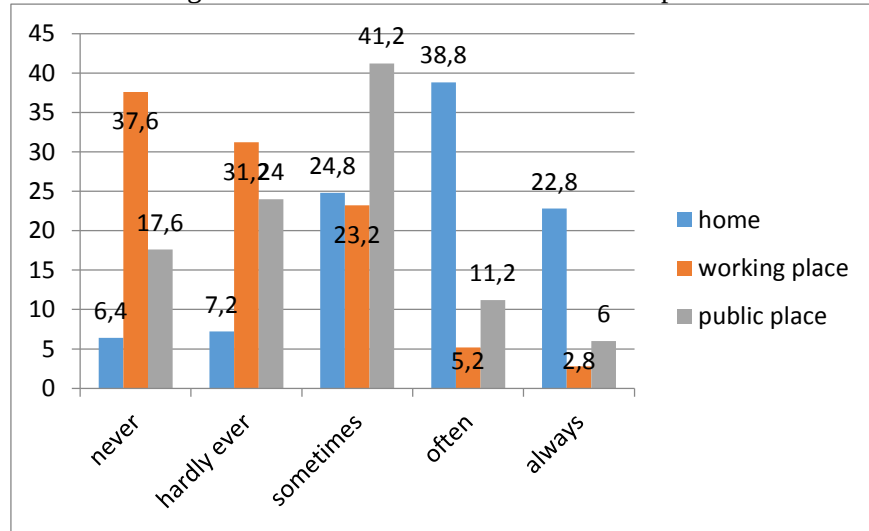
When the contributors were asked about accessing to Internet at working places; (37.2%) mentioned they never access to Internet when they are on the Job, (31.2%) declared they access to Internet hardly ever, (23.2%) reported they use Internet sometimes, (5.2%) they often access to Internet, in addition, (2.8%) responded they always use Internet even when they are at working places.

The respondents were questioned about accessing to Internet at public places; (17.6%) declared they never access to Internet when they are at public places, (24.0%) stated they use Internet hardly ever, (41.2%) described they access to Internet sometimes at communal places, (11.2%) they often use Internet, in addition, (6.0%) replied they always use Internet at public places (see table 3.13 and figure 3.13).

Table 3.13 Access to Internet at different places

Device	Responses									
	never		hardly ever		sometimes		often		Always	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
home	16	6.4	18	7.2	62	24.8	97	38.8	57	22.8
working place	94	37.6	78	31.2	58	23.2	13	5.2	7	2.8
public place	44	17.6	60	24.0	103	41.2	28	11.2	15	6.0

Figure 3.13 Access to Internet at different places



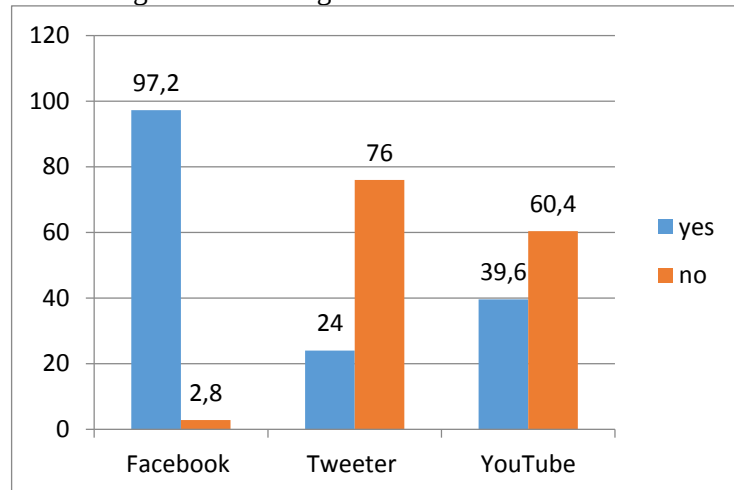
3.1.2.4. Having a social media account

The students asked for; do they have a Facebook account or not? Their answers were described as below, 97.2% replied by (Yes), whereas 2.8% is reacted by (No). When the people were inquired about having Twitter account, or not? (24%) of them answered by (Yes), meanwhile, the majority of them responded by (No). Another question of the questionnaire is demanded to know from the students; having a YouTube account, or not? The frequency of the participant showed that (39.6%) of the students filled out the questionnaire by (Yes), however, (60.4%) of them responded by (No), (see table 3.14 and figure 3.14).

Table 3.14 having an account on social media

device	yes		no	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
Facebook	243	97.2	7	2.8
Twitter	60	24.0	190	76.0
YouTube	99	39.6	151	60.4

Figure 3.14 having an account on social media



3.1.2.5. Spending time on social media

Table and figure (3.15) demonstrates the frequency percentage of participants, to know how long approximately they spend for checking social media. The responses were coded (less than one hour), (1 - 3 hours) and (more than 3 hours). (4%) of the respondents replied that they spend less than one hour on Facebook, (44%) conveyed that they spend (1-3 hour), (52%) of them expressed that they spend (more than three hours) using Facebook.

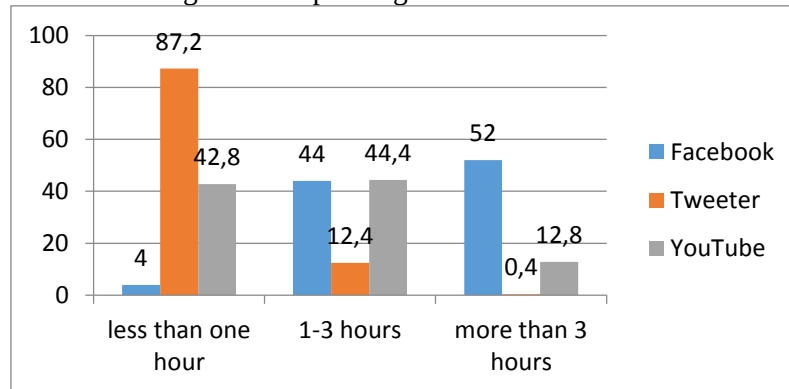
The sampled students faced another inquiry about spending time on Twitter? The result conveys that, (87.2%) of the participant spend (less than one hour), (12.4%) spend (1-3 hours) and (0.4%) of them mentioned they spend (more than 3 hours).

When the students asked for spending time on YouTube? (42.8%) of the contributors mentioned that they spend (less than one hour) on YouTube, (44.4%) of them conveyed (1- 3 hours) and (12.8%) mentioned they spend (more than 3 hours) per day.

Table 3.15 spending time on social media

	less than one hour		1-3 hours		More than 3 hours	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Facebook	10	4.0	110	44.0	130	52.0
Twitter	218	87.2	31	12.4	1	0.4
YouTube	107	42.8	111	44.4	32	12.8

Figure 3.15 spending time on social media



3.1.2.6. Gaining news and political information from social media

The sampled students are asked for answering another question in the questionnaire form about the importance of social media such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to get news and political information?

Table and figure 3.16 determines that how important is social media to get news and political information. As reveals here, (11.6%) of the respondents replied that Facebook is not important at all to get political news or information, moreover, (4.4%) of them said that it is not important to get political knowledge, However, (36.4%) reacted like that it is somewhat important, in addition, (35.2%) mentioned it is important to use Facebook to obtain political information, Furthermore, (12.4) of the students stated that it is really important to get political information or news from Facebook.

According to the results, (50.0%) of the students replied that Twitter account is not important at all to get political news or information, when, (28.8%) of them supposed that it is not important to get political information, However, (14%) answered that it is somewhat important, in addition, (4.4%) declared it is important to use Twitter to achieve political information, Furthermore, (2.8%) of the participant said it is too important to use Twitter to gain political information or news.

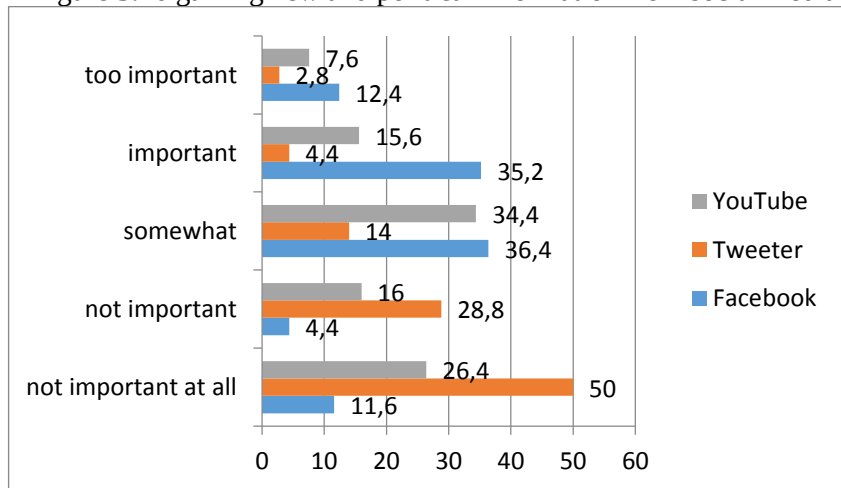
(26.4%) of the participant answered that YouTube is not important at all to get political news or information, additionally, (16%) of them assumed that it is not important to use it as source of political knowledge, However, (34.4%) countered like that it is somewhat important, in addition, (15.6%) stated that it is important to find out

political information from YouTube, Furthermore, (7.6%) of the respondents specified that it is really important to attain political information or news from YouTube.

Table 3.16 gaining new and political information from social media

device	Responses									
	not important at all		not important		somewhat		important		too important	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
Facebook	29	11.6	11	4.4	91	36.4	88	35.2	31	12.4
Twitter	125	50.0	72	28.8	35	14.0	11	4.4	7	2.8
YouTube	66	26.4	40	16.0	86	34.4	39	15.6	19	7.6

Figure 3.16 gaining new and political information from social media



3.1.2.7. Following Different Issues from Social Media

The student participant asked for; do they use social media for following political subjects? The result of the survey showed that (40%) of the student answered by (never), in addition, (22.4%) of them replied by (rarely), when (24.8%) of the respondent mentioned (sometimes), moreover, (8.4%) of the contributor said (frequently), and also only (4.4%) of the total sampled students mentioned (regularly).

When the students enquired for; do they use social media for following-up social subjects? According to the results of the study displayed that (5.6%) of the student reacted by (never), in addition, (17.6%) of them responded by (rarely), when (45.2%) of the participants mentioned (sometimes), moreover, (24%) of the respondent said (frequently), and (7.6%) stated (very frequently).

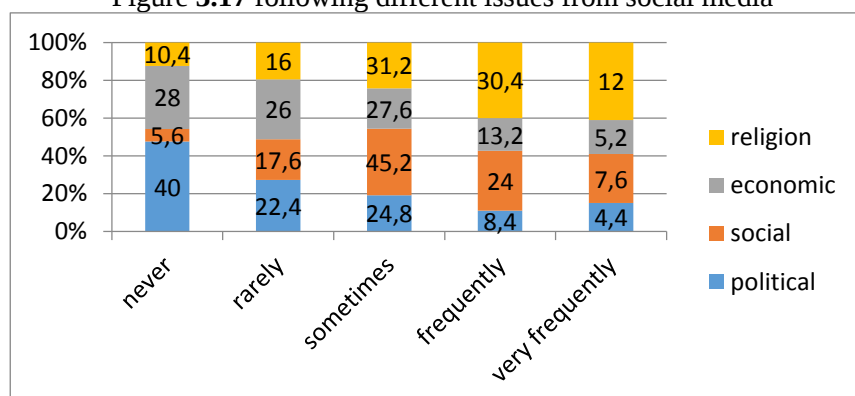
The participants faced another question; do they use social media for following-up economic subjects? The study demonstrated that (28%) of the respondents answered by (never), in addition, (26%) of them replied by (rarely), when (27%) said (sometimes), moreover, (13.2%) of them alleged (frequently), and (5.2%) of the participants detailed (very frequently).

When the contributors asked for; do they use social media for following-up religion subjects? Their answers stated that (10.4%) of the respondents replied by (never), additionally, (16%) of them responded by (rarely), (31.2%) mentioned (sometimes), furthermore, (30.4%) of them assumed (frequently), then (12%) specified (very frequently), (see Table 3.17 and figure 3.17).

Table 3.17 following different issues from social media

device	Responses									
	never		Rarely		sometimes		frequently		very frequently	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
political	100	40.0	56	22.4	62	24.8	21	8.4	11	4.4
social	14	5.6	44	17.6	113	45.2	60	24.0	19	7.6
economic	70	28.0	65	26.0	69	27.6	33	13.2	13	5.2
religion	26	10.4	40	16.0	78	31.2	76	30.4	30	12.0

Figure 3.17 following different issues from social media



3.1.3. The Level of Political Knowledge

In the questionnaire, there is another question for; which party owns most seats in the Iraqi Kurdistan parliament? The aim of this enquiry is to identify how people are familiar to political fluctuation. When the results were calculated and frequency percentage had taken to evaluate the (correct answer), as demonstrated in table (30), (73.6%) answered correctly, whereas, (5.6%) replied incorrectly and also (20.8%) mentioned (I do not know).

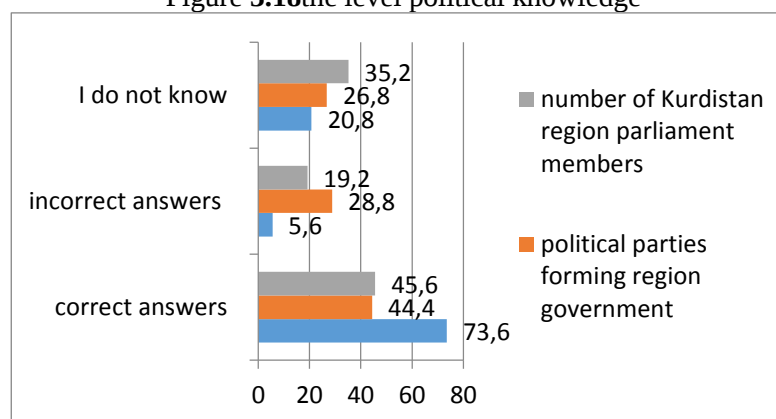
When the students asked for; how many political parties do participate in forming the current Government in Iraqi Kurdistan region? As demonstrated (44.4%) of the participant gave (correct answer), whereas, (28.8%) replied incorrectly, (26.8%) mentioned (I do not know).

The student- respondents asked for; how many members dose Kurdistan parliaments have? The percent frequency showed that (45.6%) of them responded (correct answer), while, (19.2%) answered incorrectly and (35.2%) stated (I do not know), (see Table 3.18 and figure 3.18).

Table 3.18 the level political knowledge

	correct answers		incorrect answers		I do not know	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
the party that holds most seat of Kurdistan region parliament	184	73.6	14	5.6	52	20.8
political parties forming regional government	111	44.4	72	28.8	67	26.8
number of Kurdistan region parliament members	114	45.6	48	19.2	88	35.2

Figure 3.18 the level political knowledge



3.1.4. The level of political discussion

In the survey, there is another question about discussing the information that respondents obtain from social media with family members? The results displayed that (22.4%) of the student mentioned (Never), additionally, (22.8%) of them said (Rarely), moreover, (31.2%) stated (Sometimes), furthermore, (16.0%) answered by (Frequently), and (7.6%) of them declared (Very frequently).

The sampled group queried for; do they discuss the information that respondents obtain from social media with family friends? When their answers considered and the percentage frequency has taken (14.4%) of them declared (Never), in addition, (18.4%) supposed (Rarely), also, (25.6%) specified (Sometimes), moreover, (28%) responded by (Frequently), furthermore (13%) detailed (Very frequently).

When the sampled population interrogated for; do they discuss the information that respondents obtain from social media with family classmates? By considering the results (22.8%) of the people mentioned (Never), also, (17.6%) stated (Rarely), when, (34.4%) detailed (Sometimes), additionally, (18.4%) replied by (Frequently), furthermore (6.8%) alleged (Very frequently).

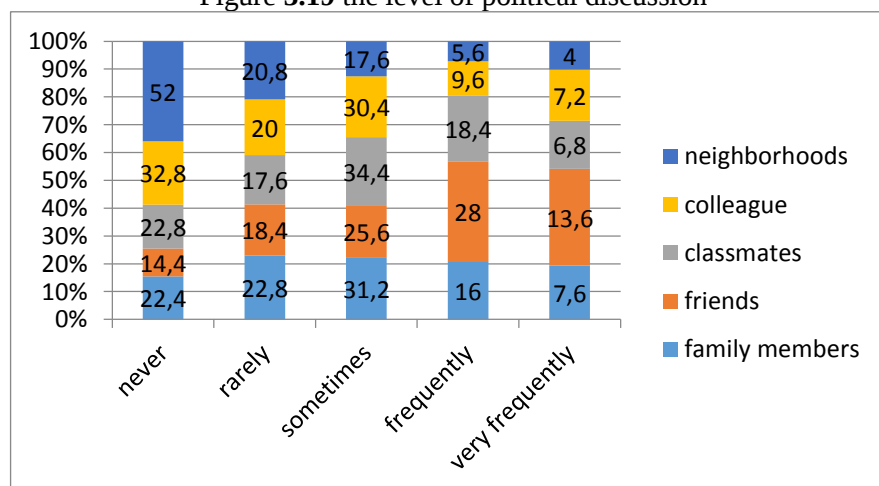
The participants questioned for; do they discuss the information that respondents obtain from social media with family colleagues? As demonstrated in the table, (32.8%) of the student stated (Never), (20%) specified (Rarely), (30.4%) said (Sometimes), moreover, (9.6%) responded by (Frequently), additionally (7.2%) assumed (Very frequently).

The sampled-student faced another question for; do they discuss the information that respondents obtain from social media with family colleagues? As shown here, (52%) of them specified (Never), (20.8%) mentioned (Rarely), (17.6%) replied (Sometimes), additionally, (5.6%) answered (Frequently), also (4%) displayed (Very frequently), (see Table 3.19 and figure 3.19).

Table 3.19 the level of political discussion

device	Responses									
	Never		Rarely		sometimes		frequently		very frequently	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
family members	56	22.4	57	22.8	78	31.2	40	16.0	19	7.6
friends	36	14.4	46	18.4	64	25.6	70	28.0	34	13.6
classmates	57	22.8	44	17.6	86	34.4	46	18.4	17	6.8
colleague	82	32.8	50	20.0	76	30.4	24	9.6	18	7.2
neighborhoods	130	52.0	52	20.8	44	17.6	14	5.6	10	4.0

Figure 3.19 the level of political discussion



3.1.5. Political participation

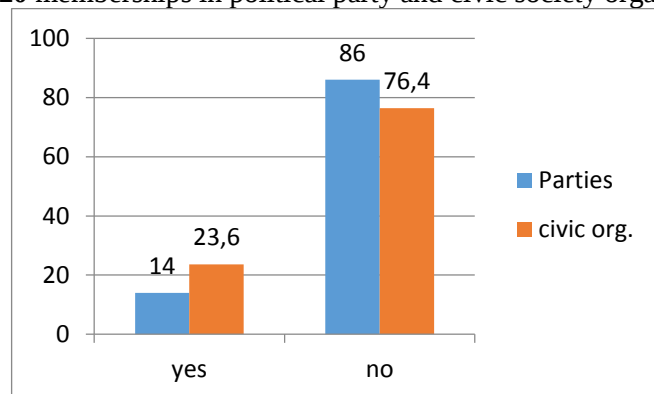
3.1.5.1. Membership in Political Party and Civil Society Organization

The respondents inquired for another questionnaire about being member or affiliating with a political party or any civil society organization? The results show that (14%) of the student said (Yes), in the contrary, (86%) mentioned (No). As demonstrated in this table, (23.6%) of the sampled-student supposed (Yes), on the other hand, (76.4%) declared (No).

Table 3.20 membership in political party and civic society organization

organizations	Yes		no	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
Parties	35	14.0	215	86.0
civic org.	59	23.6	191	76.4

Figure 3.20 memberships in political party and civic society organization



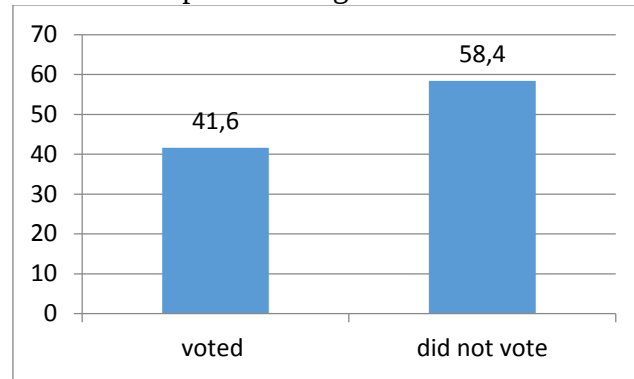
3.1.5.2. Voting in latest election

The respondents asked for voting in the latest elections? The results showed that (41.6%) of the student mentioned (Voted), in contrast, (58.4%) of them stated (Did not vote).

Table 3.21 responds voting in latest elections

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
voted	104	41.6	41.6	41.6
Valid did not vote	146	58.4	58.4	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

3.21 responds voting in latest elections



3.1.5.3. Participating in Political and Civilian Activates

When the shared-students inquired for their participation in political party's activities; Here are their responses, (66.8%) mentioned (Never), additionally, (20.4%) said (Rarely), moreover, (10.8%) stated (Sometimes), furthermore, (1.6%) declared (Frequently), and only (0.4%) of them answered by (Very frequently). The contributed people in the survey questioned about participating in civic societies organization; he percentage frequency of the results showed that (48.8%) revealed (Never), in addition, (22.8%) alleged (Rarely), also, (18.4%) specified (Sometimes), moreover, (8.8%) stated (Frequently), as well as, (1.2%) mentioned (Very frequently).

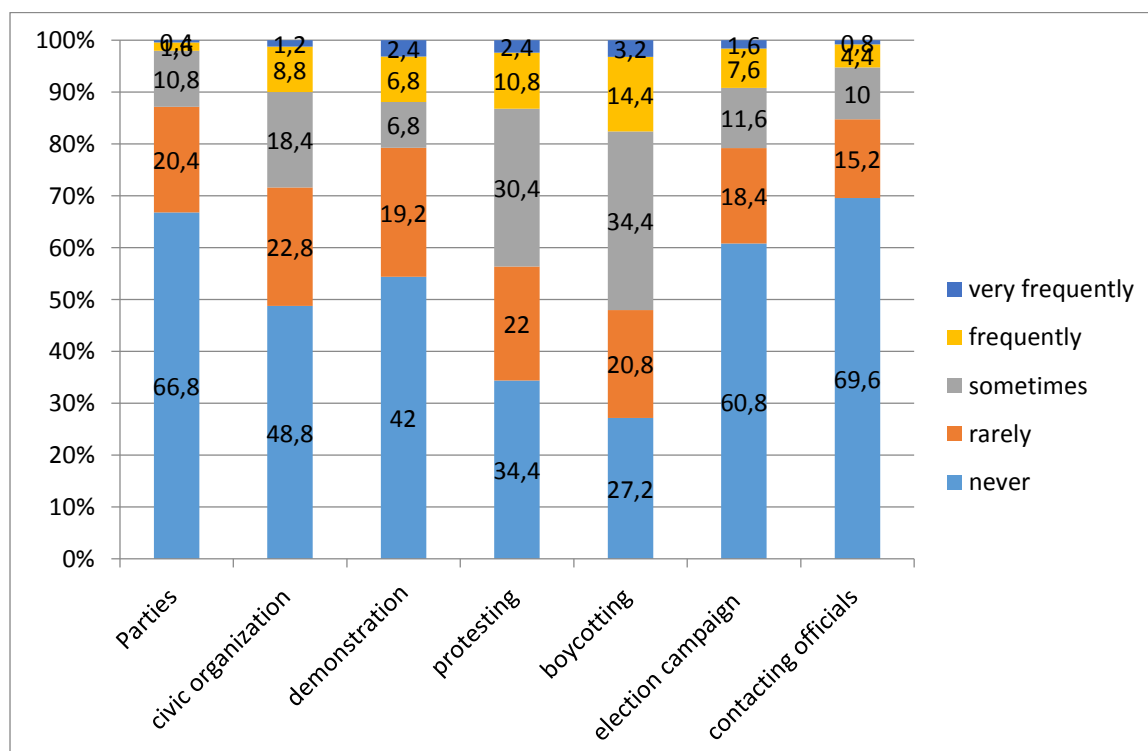
The sampled-student asked for participating in demonstration; As revealed in the table, (42%) of the shared- community claimed (Never), also, (19.2%) assumed (Rarely), (29.6%) said (Sometimes), additionally, (6.8%) specified (Frequently), then (2.4%) declared (Very frequently). The student queried for their role in protesting involvement; As shown here, (34.4%) of them filled in the forms by (Never), additionally, (22%) said (Rarely), (30.4%) alleged (Sometimes), moreover, (10.8%) stated (Frequently), and (2.4%) displayed (Very frequently). Another question that the contributor asked for is their participation in boycotting; Considering the results, (27.2%) of the student answered by (Never), also, (20.8%) alleged (Rarely), (34.4%) responded by (Sometimes), furthermore, (14.4%) specified (Frequently), then (3.2%) showed (Very frequently). When the participants questioned about their role in election campaign; According to their answers, (60.8%) of the respondents replied by (Never), in addition, (18.4%) mentioned (Rarely), (11.6%) answered by (Sometimes), (7.6%) stated (Frequently), furthermore, (1.6%) exhibited by (Very frequently). The student-

respondents faced another question about contacting official; As demonstrated in the table, (69.6%) reacted by (Never), additionally, (15.2%) stated (Rarely), (10%) responded by (Sometimes), (4.4%) specified (Frequently), moreover, (0.8%) revealed by (Very frequently), (see table 3.22).

Table 3.22 participating in political and civil organization activities

activities	Responses									
	never		Rarely		sometimes		frequently		very frequently	
	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent	frequency	percent
Parties	167	66.8	51	20.4	27	10.8	4	1.6	1	0.4
civil organization	122	48.8	57	22.8	46	18.4	22	8.8	3	1.2
demonstration	105	42.0	48	19.2	17	6.8	17	6.8	6	2.4
protesting	86	34.4	55	22.0	76	30.4	27	10.8	6	2.4
boycotting	68	27.2	52	20.8	86	34.4	36	14.4	8	3.2
collection campaign	152	60.8	46	18.4	29	11.6	19	7.6	4	1.6
contacting officials	174	69.6	38	15.2	25	10.0	11	4.4	2	0.8

Figure 3.22 participating in political and civic organization activities



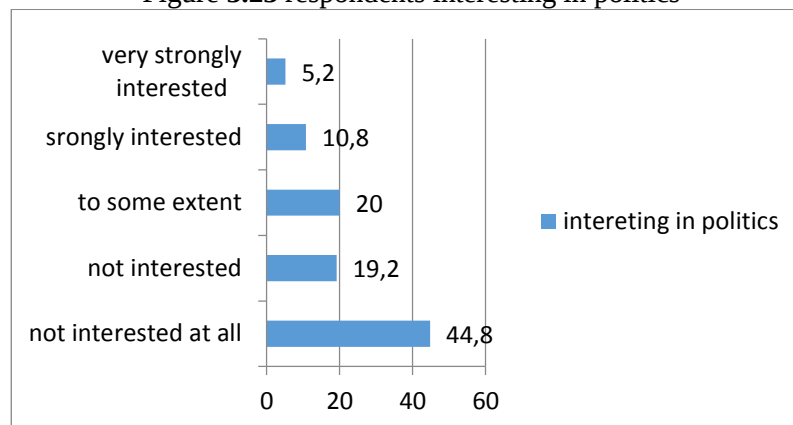
3.1.6. Political Interests

The participants asked for showing their interest in politics, this table explains how they reacted to the query, (44.8%) of the students stated (Not interested at all), (19.2%) mentioned (Not interested), in addition, (20%) of them said (To some extent), moreover, (10.8%) replied (strongly interested), and (5.2%) specified (Very strongly interested).

Table 3. 23 respondents' fans in politics

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid not interested at all	112	44.8	44.8	44.8
not interested	48	19.2	19.2	64.0
to some extent	50	20.0	20.0	84.0
strongly	27	10.8	10.8	94.8
very strongly	13	5.2	5.2	100.0
Total	250	100.0	100.0	

Figure 3.23 respondents interesting in politics



3.2. TESTING THE HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

3.2.1. Using Social Media and Political Knowledge, Political Interest, Political Discussion

Hypotheses number 1: There is a relation between using social media to gain political information with having political knowledge.

In order to detect the correlation between using social media and having political knowledge, Pearson's test is used (see Table 3.24). The results show a relation between Facebook users and having political knowledge ($r=0.155$, $p<0.05$), and the results show no relation between Twitter users and having political knowledge ($r=0.104$, $p>0.101$), and YouTube and having political knowledge ($r=0.082$, $p>0.199$).

Table 3.24. Correlation between using social media to gain political information and having political knowledge.

	Facebook	Twitter	YouTube	political Knowledge
Facebook	1 250	.215** .001 250	.387** .000 250	.155* .014 250
Twitter	.215** .001 250	1 250	.274** .000 250	.104 .101 250
YouTube	.387** .000 250	.274** .000 250	1 250	.082 .199 250
political Knowledge	.155* .014 250	.104 .101 250	.082 .199 250	1 250

**, Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*, Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Hypotheses number 2: Using social media to get political information and involvement in political discussion are correlated.

Pearson's test is consumed to show the correlation between using social media and involvement in political discussion, (see Table 3.25). The results detected a relation between both Facebook users with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.174$, $p<0.05$), and YouTube users with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.165$, $p<0.05$). And the results show no relation between using Twitter with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.070$, $p>0.05$).

Table 3.25. Correlation between using social media to get political information and involvement in political discussion.

	Facebook	Twitter	YouTube	political discussion
Facebook	1 250	.215** .001 250	.387** .000 250	.174** .006 250
Twitter	.215** .001 250	1 250	.274** .000 250	.070 .272 250
YouTube	.387** .000 250	.274** .000 250	1 250	.165** .009 250
political Knowledge	.174** .006 250	.070 .272 250	.165** .009 250	1 250

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypotheses number 3: Using social media to obtain political information is associated with political interest.

Pearson's test is consumed to show the correlation between using social media and involvement in political discussion, (see Table 3.25). The results detected an relation between using Facebook with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.228$, $p<0.05$), consuming YouTube with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.136$, $p<0.05$), and using Twitter with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.151$, $p<0.05$).

Table 3.26 shows correlation between using social media to get political information and involvement in political interest.

	Facebook	Twitter	YouTube	political interest
Facebook	1 .001 250	.215** .001 250	.387** .000 250	.228** .000 250
Twitter	.215** .001 250	1 .001 250	.274** .000 250	.136* .031 250
YouTube	.387** .000 250	.274** .000 250	1 .000 250	.151* .017 250
political Knowledge	.228** .000 250	.136* .031 250	.151* .017 250	1 250

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

3.2.2. Using Social Media with Conventional and Non-Conventional Types of Political Participation

Hypotheses number 4: Consuming social media to receive political information is connected to political participation:

Hypotheses number 4.1: There is a relation between using social media to receive political information and conventional types of political participation.

Pearson's test is utilized to show the correlation between using social media and conventional type of political participation, (see Table 3.27). The results detected a relation between both Facebook users with conventional type of political participation ($r=0.196$, $p<0.05$), and YouTube users with conventional type of political participation ($r=0.150$, $p<0.05$). And the results show no relation between using Twitter with conventional type of political participation ($r=0.098$, $p>0.05$).

Table 3.27. Correlation between using social media to get political information with conventional types of political participation.

	Facebook	Twitter	YouTube	Conventional participation
Facebook	1 .001 250	.215** .001 250	.387** .000 250	.196** .002 250
Twitter	.215** .001 250	1 .000 250	.274** .000 250	.098 .122 250
YouTube	.387** .000 250	.274** .000 250	1 .000 250	.150* .018 250
political Knowledge	.196** .002 250	.098 .122 250	.150* .018 250	1 250

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Hypotheses number 4.2: There is relationship between using social media to receive political information and non-conventional types of political participation.

Pearson's test is utilized to show the correlation between using social media and non-conventional type of political participation, (See Table 3.28). The results detected a relation between both Facebook users with non-conventional type of political participation ($r=0.201$, $p<0.05$), and YouTube users with non-conventional type of political participation ($r=0.217$, $p<0.05$). And the results show no relation between using Twitter with non-conventional type of political participation ($r=0.098$, $p>0.05$).

Table 3.28. Correlation between using social media to get political information with non-conventional types of political participation.

	Facebook	Twitter	YouTube	Non- Conventional participation
Facebook	1 250	.215** .001 250	.387** .000 250	.201** .001 250
Twitter	.215** .001 250	1 250	.274** .000 250	.098 .122 250
YouTube	.387** .000 250	.274** .000 250	1 250	.217** .001 250
political Knowledge	.201** .001 250	.098 .122 250	.217** .001 250	1 250

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

3.2.3. Conventional and Non-Conventional Types of Political Participation with Political Knowledge, Political Interest and Political Discussion

Hypotheses number 5: Participating in politics is correlated with having political knowledge, political interests and Political discussion:

Hypotheses number 5.1 Conventional political participation is associated with having political knowledge, political interests and Political discussion.

Pearson's test is adopted to show the correlation between conventional type of political participation with having political knowledge, political discussion and political interest (see Table 3.29). The results detected a relation between conventional type of political participation with involvement in political discussion ($r=0.164$, $p<0.05$), and political interests ($r=0.402$, $p<0.05$). And the results show no relation between conventional type of political participation with having political knowledge ($r=0.018$, $p>0.05$).

Table 3.29. Correlation between conventional types of political participation with having political knowledge, political interest and Political discussion.

	Conventional participation	political knowledge	political discussion	political interests
Conventional participation	1 250	.018 .771 250	.164** .010 250	.402** .000 250
political knowledge	.018 .771 250	1 250	-.175** .005 250	.110 .082 250
political discussion	.164** .010 250	-.175** .005 250	1 250	.169** .007 250
political interests	.402** .000 250	.110 .082 250	.169** .007 250	1 250

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypotheses number 5.2: Non-conventional political participation is correlated with having political knowledge, political interests and Political discussion.

Pearson's test is adopted to show the correlation between non-conventional type of political participation with having political knowledge, political discussion and political interest (see Table 3.30). The results detected a relation between conventional type of political participation with both involvement in political discussion ($r=0.190$, $p<0.05$), and political interests ($r=0.253$, $p<0.05$). And the results show no relation between conventional types of political participation with having political knowledge ($r=0.110$, $p>0.05$).

Table 3.30. Correlation between nonconventional types of political participation with having political knowledge, political interests and Political discussion.

	Non- Conventional participation	political knowledge	political discussion	political interests
Non- Conventional participation	1 250	.110 .083 250	.190** .003 250	.253** .000 250
political knowledge	.110 .083 250	1 250	-.175** .005 250	.110 .082 250
political discussion	.190** .003 250	-.175** .005 250	1 250	.169** .007 250
political interests	.253** .000 250	.110 .082 250	.169** .007 250	1 250

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

CONCLUSION

This study is investigated the role of social media on youths' political participation in Kurdistan region of Iraq. The study depends on conducting quantitative approach, the survey study conducted to collect data about the studies variables in order to be examined and the questionnaire was used to collect data. However, The researcher tried to find out relationship between using social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and youths' political participation. And the researchers seek to figure out relation between political participation with political discussion, political knowledge and political interest through testing hypotheses that developed from literature review. In addition, the survey conducted on a sample of 250 under graduated students at Halabja University in Halabja province, and the respondents in the survey were aged between 18-30 years.

According to the results from the study, the researcher received some conclusions including: the vast majority of youth having Smartphones and nearly seventy percent of them have personal computer. The vast majority of young citizen access Internet using their smart phones meanwhile half of them use computer.

The study shows that the more than 95% of the sample own smart phone and 66% own computer. And the study finds out that the participants of the study are mostly using their mobile phone to go online, rather than using computer.

The study found out that young people prefer to be online firstly when they are at home and secondly when they are in public places, furthermore, the study show that the majority of young people stay away of being online at their working places.

Amongst these social media Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, the study figured out that 97% of the undergraduate's students have an account on Facebook, and accordingly the half of the respondents spend time on checking Facebook. Furthermore, Facebook is more reliable to the participants of the study than Twitter and YouTube to gain political information and to be aware what is going on in the world and in their country. And the study figures out that follow different issues through social media including religious, social, economical and political issues.

Through testing respondents' political knowledge; the study shows that the young people are mostly familiar with political structure in their country, and they are very knowledgeable about the parties occupying parliament seats. The study shows that the participants mostly discuss political information within their social network relationship, mostly with friends, classmates and family members respectively.

Moreover, in terms of participation in politics, the study shows that majority of young people are not members of neither political parties nor civil organizations. And approximately half of young citizens participated in the last election. The study finds out that majority of young people participated in political and civilian activities mainly boycotting, protesting, civic organizations activity and elections campaign respectively. The study shows a low level of interest in politics among youths.

Through testing hypotheses, the study there is correlation between using social media to get political information with young people political knowledge especially Facebook. Moreover, the study detected that there is relationship between using Facebook and YouTube with young citizens' involvement in political discussion. And the study shows an association between using Facebook, YouTube and Twitter with political interest.

Furthermore, the study finds out that there is an association between conventional and non-conventional type of political participation with using Facebook and YouTube. As well as, the study shows a correlation between conventional and non-conventional type of political participation with Political discussion and political interest.

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APPENDIXES

1.3 QUESTIONNAIRE

Istanbul University
Institute of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology

Questionnaire
for
Master degree Thesis in Sociology
The Role of Social Media On Youths' Political Participation in Iraqi Kurdistan Region
The Halabja University Case

Hello, dear participants.....

I am (Dana Ahmed Ali) studying master degree in sociology at Istanbul University/
Institute of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology.

I am doing a survey study on the (The Role of Social Media On Youths' Political
Participation In Iraqi Kurdistan region The Halabja University Case). You represent the
Kurdish Young citizens in Iraqi Kurdistan region to be a part of the sample of the study.

I would like to ask you very gratefully to participate in this study. You are requested to
answer the following questions.

Feel free if you need more explanation and information about every question or items.

I appreciate your participation

General information:

(Please Tick (√) to select your answers)

1. Age:
2. Gender: Mal ☐ Female ☐
3. Faculty of Studding:
4. Place of residence: city ☐ village ☐

5. State of employment: Unemployed ☐ part-time worker ☐ full-time worker ☐

Other

6. Total Monthly household income by (Iraqi Dinar):

7. Income sources:

8. Household Size:

9. Do you have a Smart phone? Yes ☐ No ☐

10. Do you have a Personal Computer? Yes ☐ No ☐

11. How frequently do you access to Internet from your smart phone and PC?

Tools	never	hardly ever	sometimes	often	always
Smart phone	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Personal Computer	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other(indicate):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. How frequently do you go online in these places below?

places	never	hardly ever	sometimes	Often	always
Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Working place	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public places	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other(indicate):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

13. Do you have any account on these social media below?

- Facebook Yes ☐ No ☐
- Twitter Yes ☐ No ☐
- YouTube Yes ☐ No ☐

- Others (indicate):

14. How many hours do you spend daily checking these social media below?

social networks	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	More than 10 hours
Facebook	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Twitter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
YouTube	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others(indicate):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

15. How important are these social media below to get news and political information?

social media	not important at all	not important	somewhat	important	too important
Facebook	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Twitter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
YouTube	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
others (indicate):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. While using social media, how frequently do you follow these subjects below?

social media	Never	rarely	sometime	frequently	very frequently
political	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
social	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
economic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
religion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

others (indicate):

..... ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
 ...

17. Answer the following questions by providing correct answers or (I do not know).

- Which party owns the majority of seats in the Iraqi Kurdistan parliament currently?
- How many political parties do participate in forming the current Government in Iraqi Kurdistan region?
- How many members dose Kurdistan parliaments have?

18. How frequently do you discuss the information that you obtain from social media with your social relationship?

social relationship	never	rarely	sometime	frequently	very frequently
family members	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
friends	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
classmates	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
colleague	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
neighborhoods	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others(indicate):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

19. Are you a member in the following organizations?

- Political parties Yes ☐ No ☐
- Civic societies' organization yes ☐ No ☐

20. Please determine your position to vote in the last election to choose the current members of Kurdistan region Parliament?

- Voted ☐ Did not vote ☐

21. How frequently do you participate in the following activities?

Activities	never	rarely	sometime	frequently	very frequently
Political parties	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Civic societies' organization	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
demonstration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
protesting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
boycotting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
participating in the election campaign	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
contacting officials	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Others (indicate):	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

22. How strongly are you interested in politics?

Not interested at all ☐ not interested ☐ to some extent ☐ strongly ☐ very ☐ strongly

Thank you very much